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### MAP-ZINE HIGHLIGHTS:

- Stay updated with the latest places in the news.
- Experience top-quality, visually captivating, region-specific maps.
- Engage with map-based questions on current affairs.
- Gain insights through detailed solutions and explanations.
- Hone your mapping skills with provided practice maps.

***This volume includes coverage of Latitude and Longitude, India- Size and Extent***



*This document is personalised for susbscriber G-288375*

# MAP-ZINE

## VOLUME - 1

### JUNE-JULY 2024

*A map module for UPSC, PCS & Other Competitive Exams*

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**A-1 Which of the following statements about Israel is TRUE?**

1. It shares a border with Lebanon.
2. It is a narrow country located in the Middle East along the Mediterranean Sea.
3. The Dead Sea, a saltwater lake, is located to the east of Israel.
4. The Negev Desert covers a significant portion of Israel.

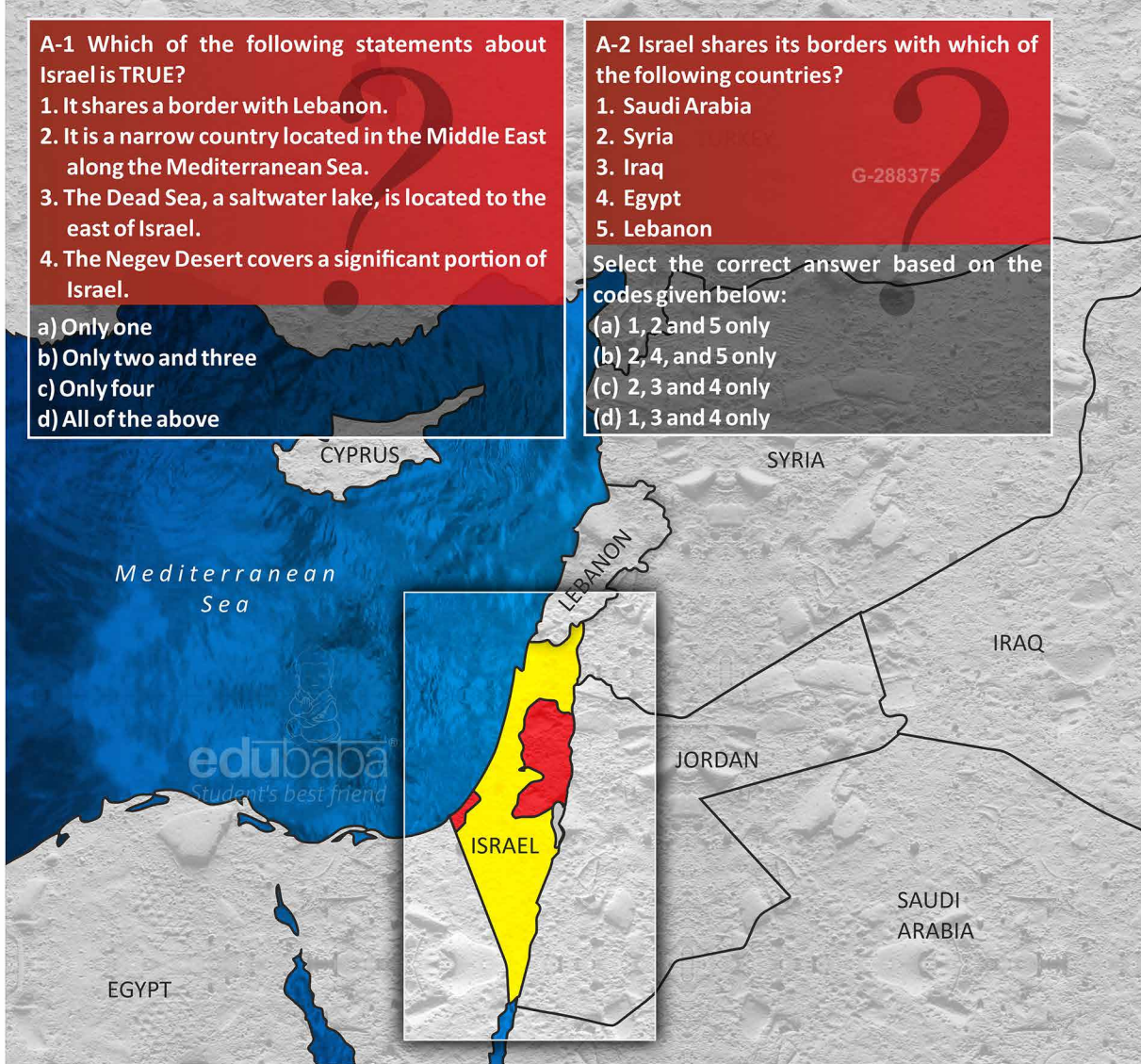
- a) Only one
- b) Only two and three
- c) Only four
- d) All of the above

**A-2 Israel shares its borders with which of the following countries?**

1. Saudi Arabia
2. Syria
3. Iraq
4. Egypt
5. Lebanon

Select the correct answer based on the codes given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 5 only
- (b) 2, 4, and 5 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 3 and 4 only



**A-3 Which one of the following is correct regarding the Ben Gurion Canal Project, seen in the news recently?**

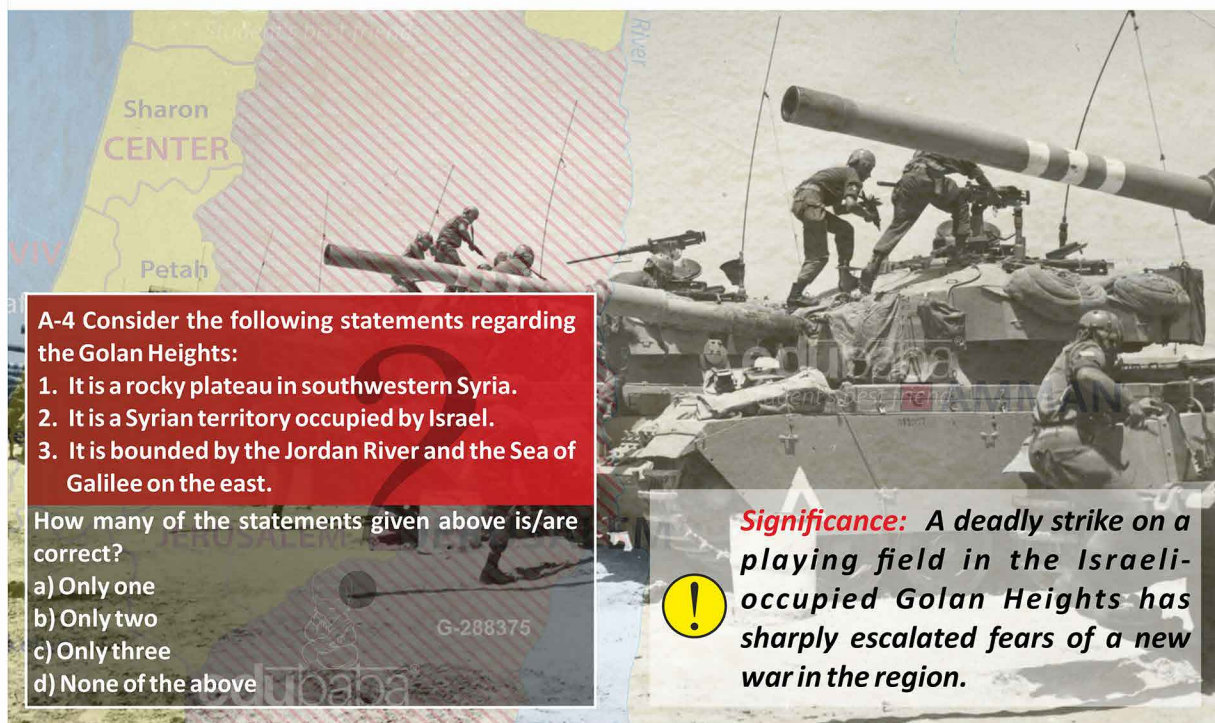
- a) It is a shipping route in the Arctic Ocean that is opening up as the polar ice caps melt.
- b) It is a proposed canal that would connect the Caribbean Sea with the Pacific Ocean and potentially rival the Panama Canal.
- c) It is proposed alternative route for shipping between the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea.
- d) It is a proposed waterway that would cut through Thailand and connect the Indian Ocean with the Pacific Ocean, potentially reducing travel times for ships.



**Significance:** The Israel Palestine conflict is one of the oldest and persisting conflicts in the world. Now and then, the situation escalates to deadly heights causing deaths and destruction in the region







A-4 Consider the following statements regarding the Golan Heights:

1. It is a rocky plateau in southwestern Syria.
2. It is a Syrian territory occupied by Israel.
3. It is bounded by the Jordan River and the Sea of Galilee on the east.

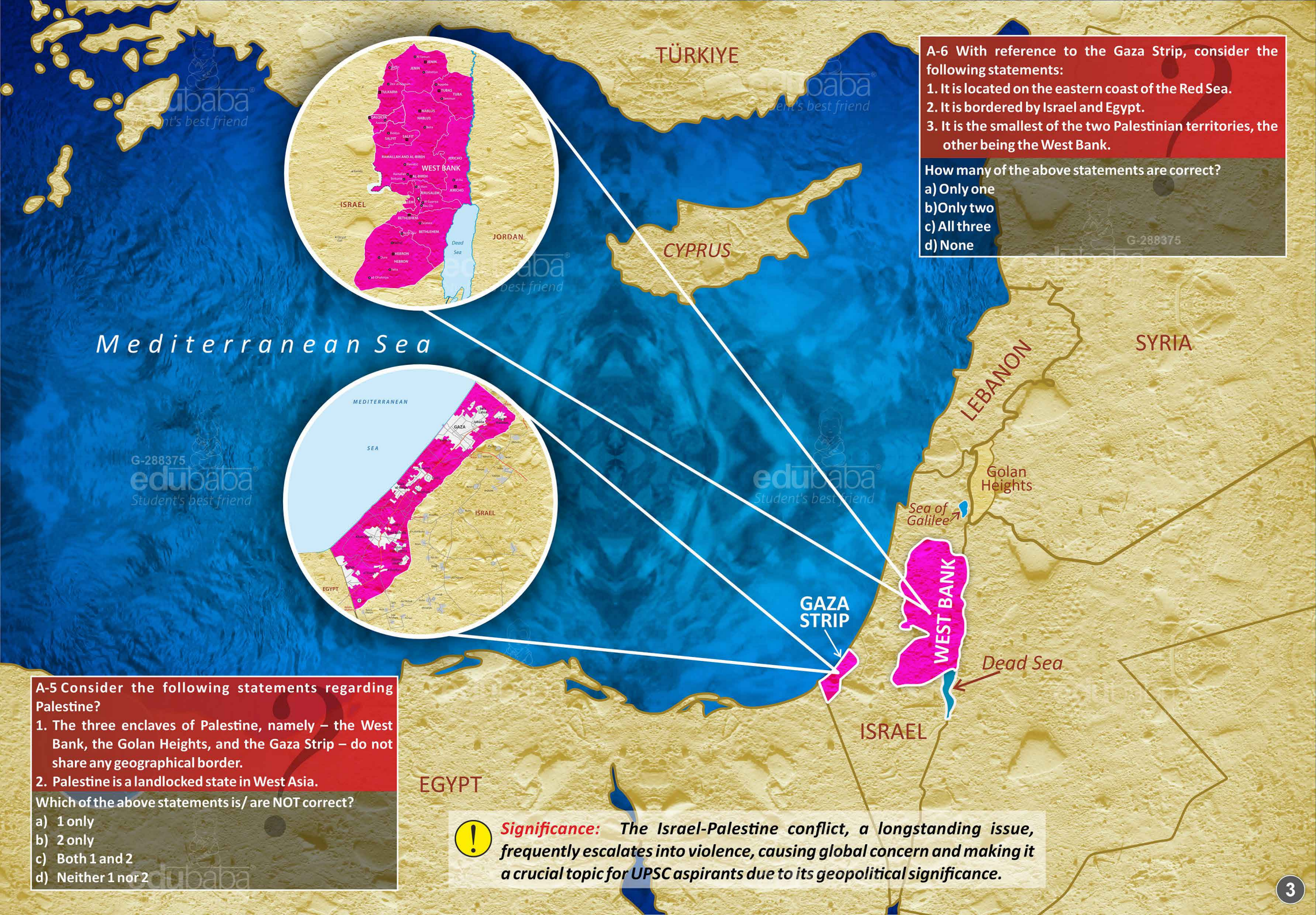
How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None of the above



**Significance:** A deadly strike on a playing field in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights has sharply escalated fears of a new war in the region.





A-6 With reference to the Gaza Strip, consider the following statements:

1. It is located on the eastern coast of the Red Sea.
2. It is bordered by Israel and Egypt.
3. It is the smallest of the two Palestinian territories, the other being the West Bank.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

A-5 Consider the following statements regarding Palestine?

1. The three enclaves of Palestine, namely – the West Bank, the Golan Heights, and the Gaza Strip – do not share any geographical border.
2. Palestine is a landlocked state in West Asia.

Which of the above statements is/ are NOT correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2



**Significance:** The Israel-Palestine conflict, a longstanding issue, frequently escalates into violence, causing global concern and making it a crucial topic for UPSC aspirants due to its geopolitical significance.



A-7 How many of the following statements about the Dead Sea is TRUE?

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1. It is located entirely within Israel.
2. It is fed by the Nile River.
3. It is the highest lake on Earth.
4. It is known for its high salt concentration.
5. The Negev Desert surrounds the Dead Sea.

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) Only four
- e) All of the above



Mediterranean Sea

GAZA STRIP

Dead Sea

ISRAEL

JORDAN

SAUDI ARABIA

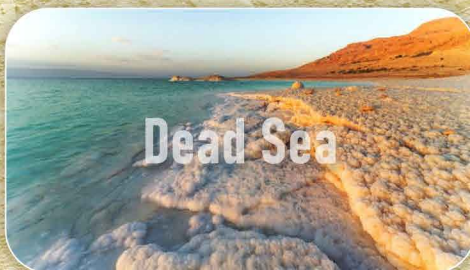
EGYPT

Sinai Peninsula

SYRIA

LEBANON

CYPRUS



**Significance:** Israel-Hamas war has left the Dead Sea desolate





A-8 Consider the following statements:

1. The Suez Canal is an artificial sea-level waterway that connects the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea.
2. The Suez Canal is operated jointly by Britain and France.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

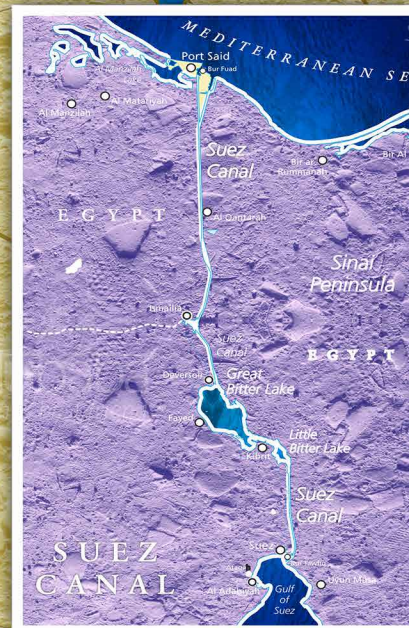
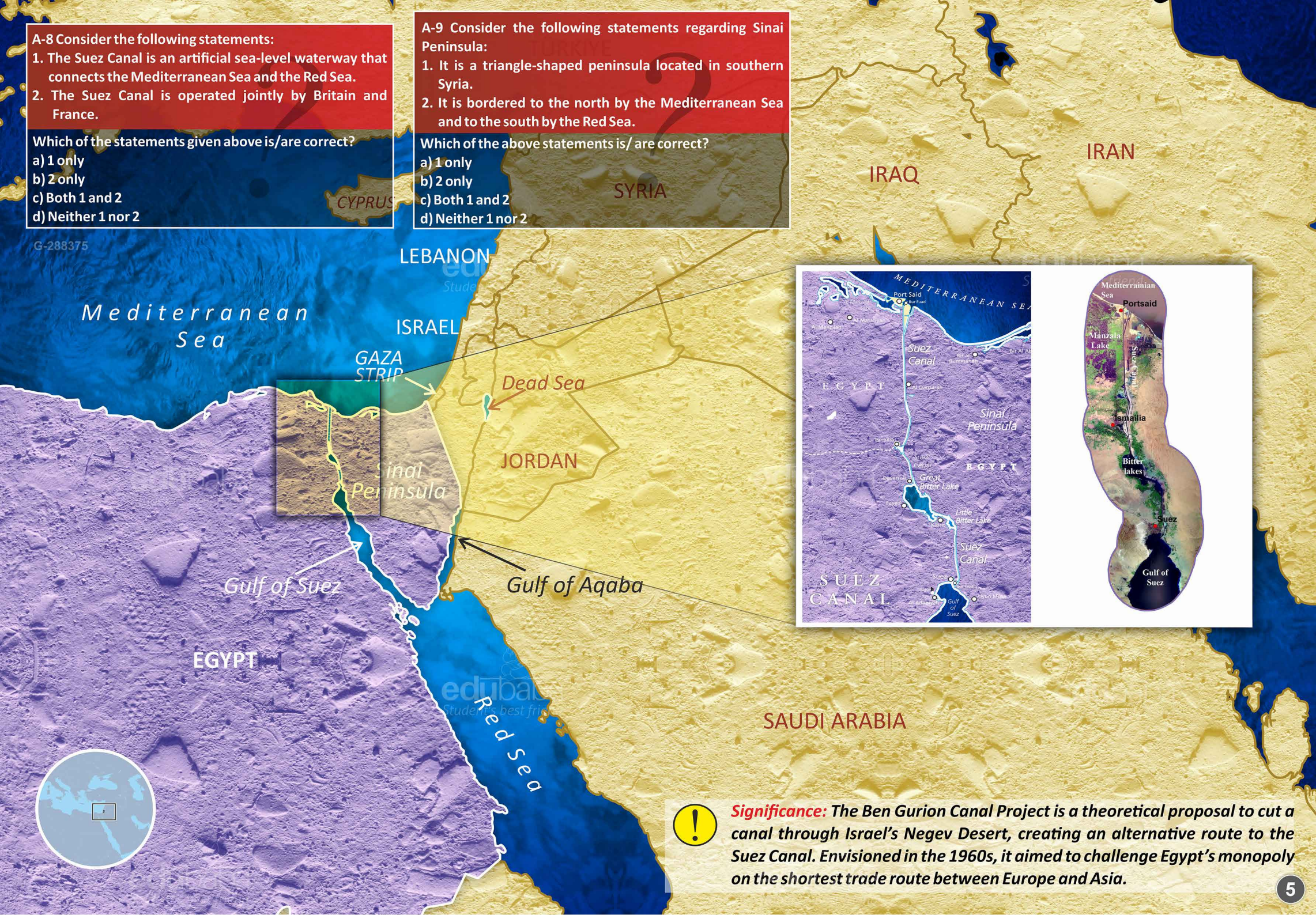
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

A-9 Consider the following statements regarding Sinai Peninsula:

1. It is a triangle-shaped peninsula located in southern Syria.
2. It is bordered to the north by the Mediterranean Sea and to the south by the Red Sea.

Which of the above statements is/ are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2



**Significance:** The Ben Gurion Canal Project is a theoretical proposal to cut a canal through Israel's Negev Desert, creating an alternative route to the Suez Canal. Envisioned in the 1960s, it aimed to challenge Egypt's monopoly on the shortest trade route between Europe and Asia.

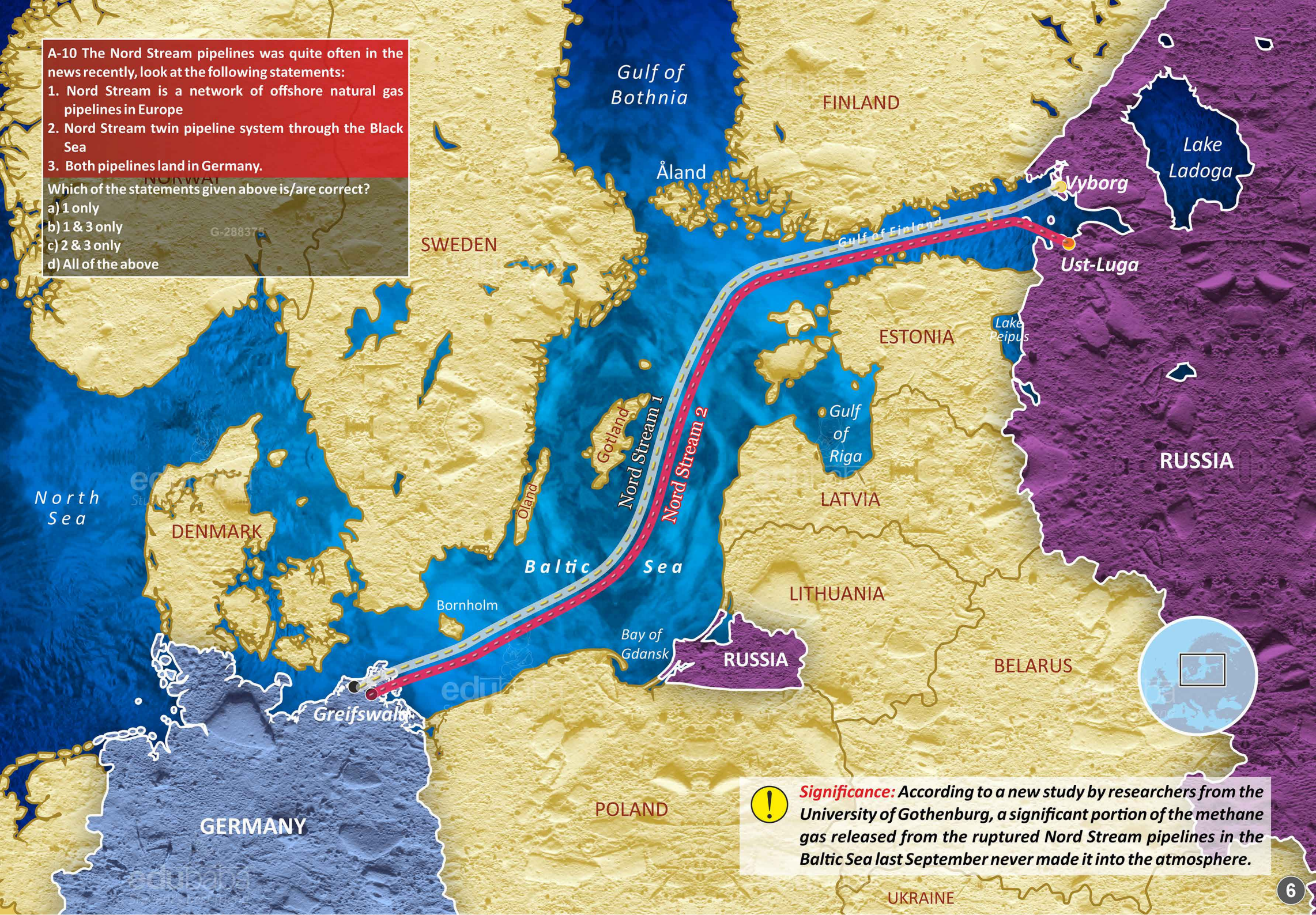


A-10 The Nord Stream pipelines was quite often in the news recently, look at the following statements:

1. Nord Stream is a network of offshore natural gas pipelines in Europe
2. Nord Stream twin pipeline system through the Black Sea
3. Both pipelines land in Germany.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 & 3 only
- c) 2 & 3 only
- d) All of the above



**Significance:** According to a new study by researchers from the University of Gothenburg, a significant portion of the methane gas released from the ruptured Nord Stream pipelines in the Baltic Sea last September never made it into the atmosphere.



A-11 'The United Kingdom' consists of England and \_\_\_\_\_?

- a) Northern Ireland, Paima and Iceland
- b) Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales
- c) Scotland, Wales and Faroe Island
- d) Scotland, Sardinia and Wales.

A-12 With how many countries, United Kingdom shares its land border?

- a) 3
- b) 1
- c) 0
- d) 5



A-13 Which country hosted the signing ceremony for the Bletchley Park Declaration?

- a) United States
- b) France
- c) India
- d) United Kingdom



**Significance:** Keir Starmer confirmed as Britain's new prime minister after Labour Party's decisive win.





POLAND

BELARUS

A-14 Consider the following countries:

1. Bulgaria
2. Czech Republic
3. Hungary
4. Latvia
5. Lithuania
6. Romania

How many of the above-mentioned countries share a land border with the Ukraine?

- a) Only two
- b) Only three
- c) Only four
- d) Only five

A-15 With reference to the Dnieper River, consider the following statements:

1. It is the longest river in Europe.
2. It flows through Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus.
3. It empties into the Mediterranean Sea.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

A-16 This sea is bordered by Ukraine on the North, Russia on the East, the Crimean peninsula on the West, and is connected to the Black Sea on the south.

- a) Sea of Azov
- b) Celtic Sea
- c) Sea of Marmara
- d) Aral Sea

ROMANIA

Chernobyl



Russian Control Before Feb 24



Russian Control

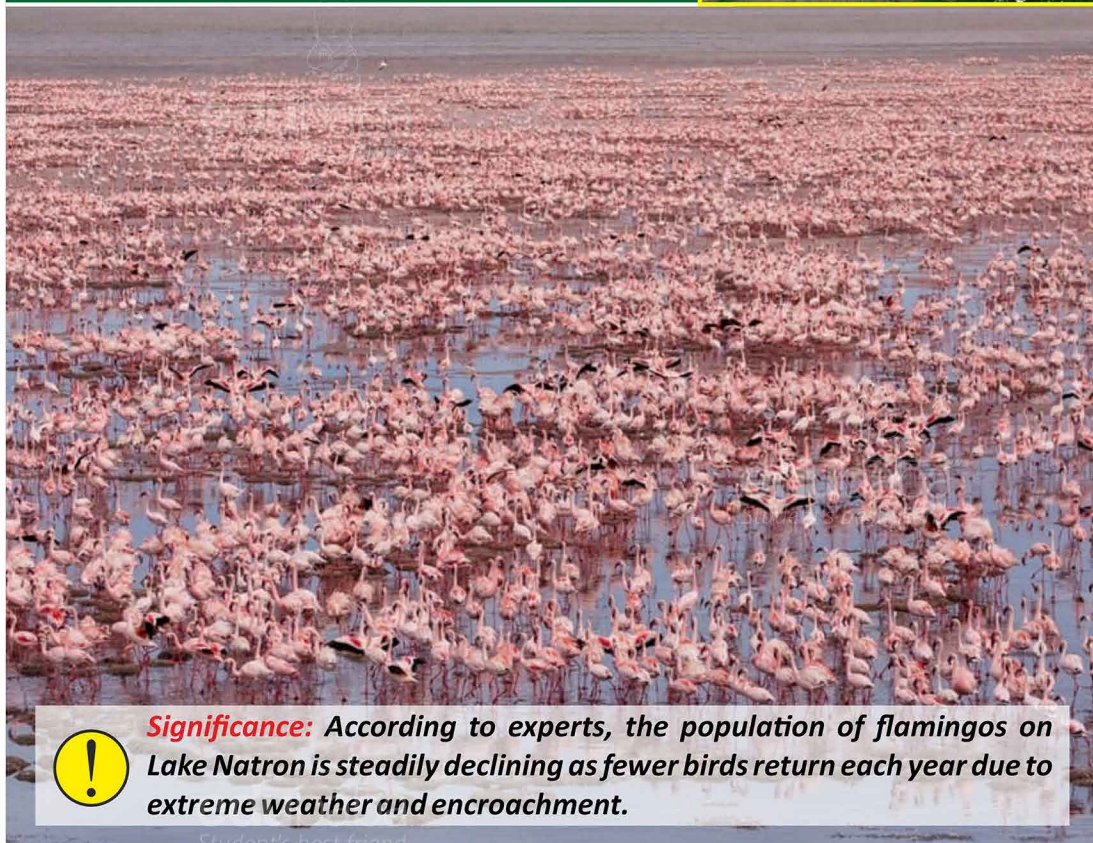
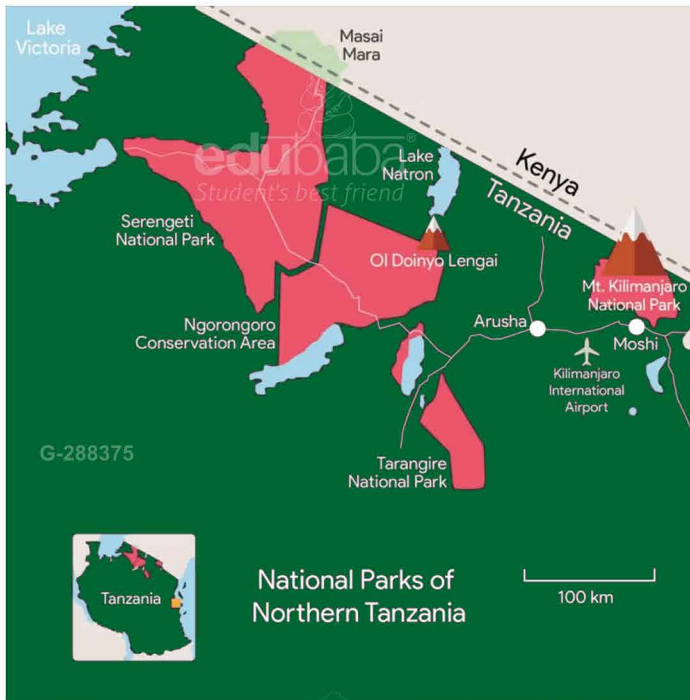
RUSSIA

UKRAINE

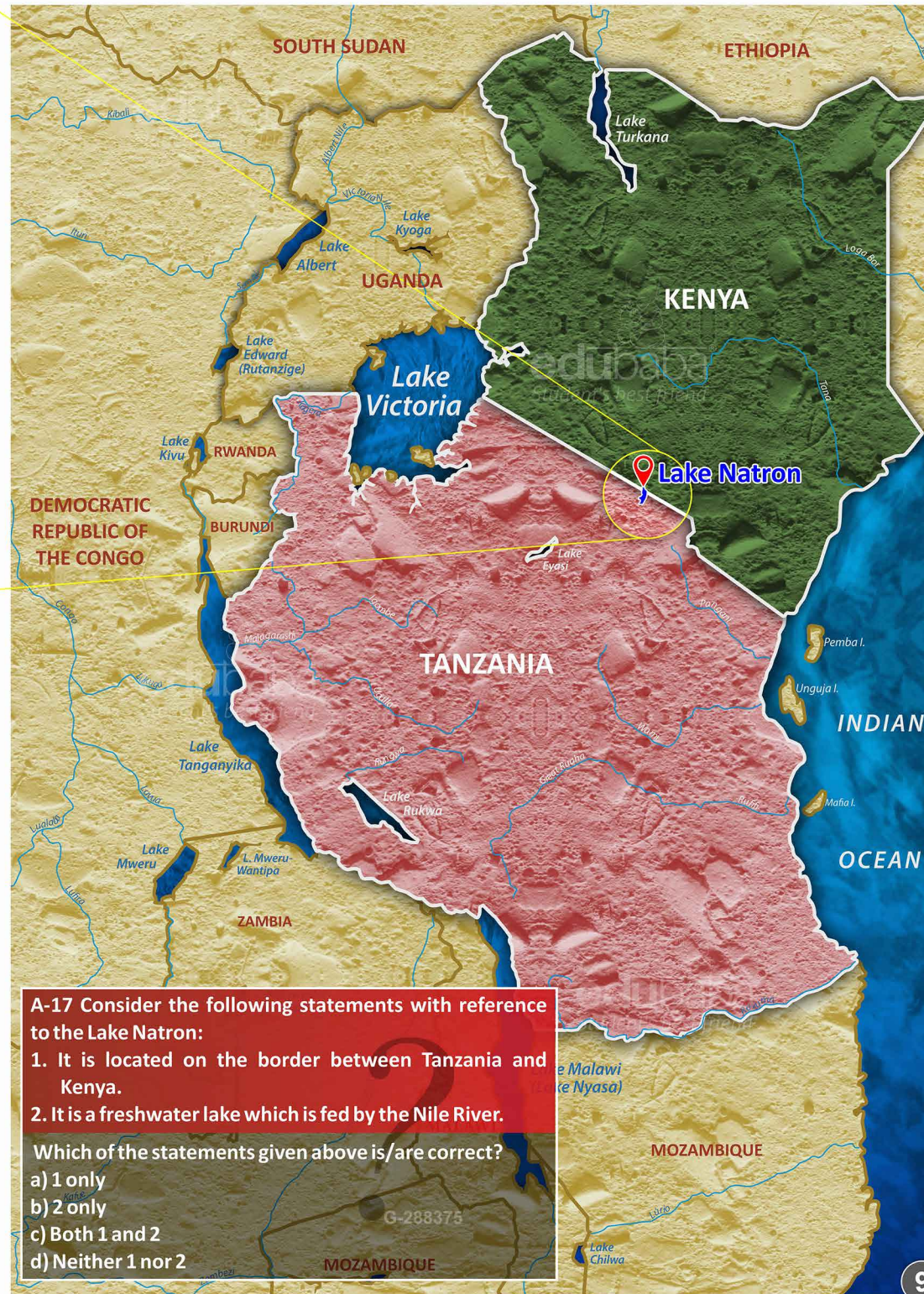
Black

Sea





**Significance:** According to experts, the population of flamingos on Lake Natron is steadily declining as fewer birds return each year due to extreme weather and encroachment.



A-17 Consider the following statements with reference to the Lake Natron:

1. It is located on the border between Tanzania and Kenya.
2. It is a freshwater lake which is fed by the Nile River.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2



A-18 The South China Sea Dispute involves which of the following countries?

1. China
2. Vietnam
3. Malaysia
4. Indonesia

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a) 1 and 4
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) 2, 3 and 4

A-19 Arrange the following islands in the South China Sea from North to South.

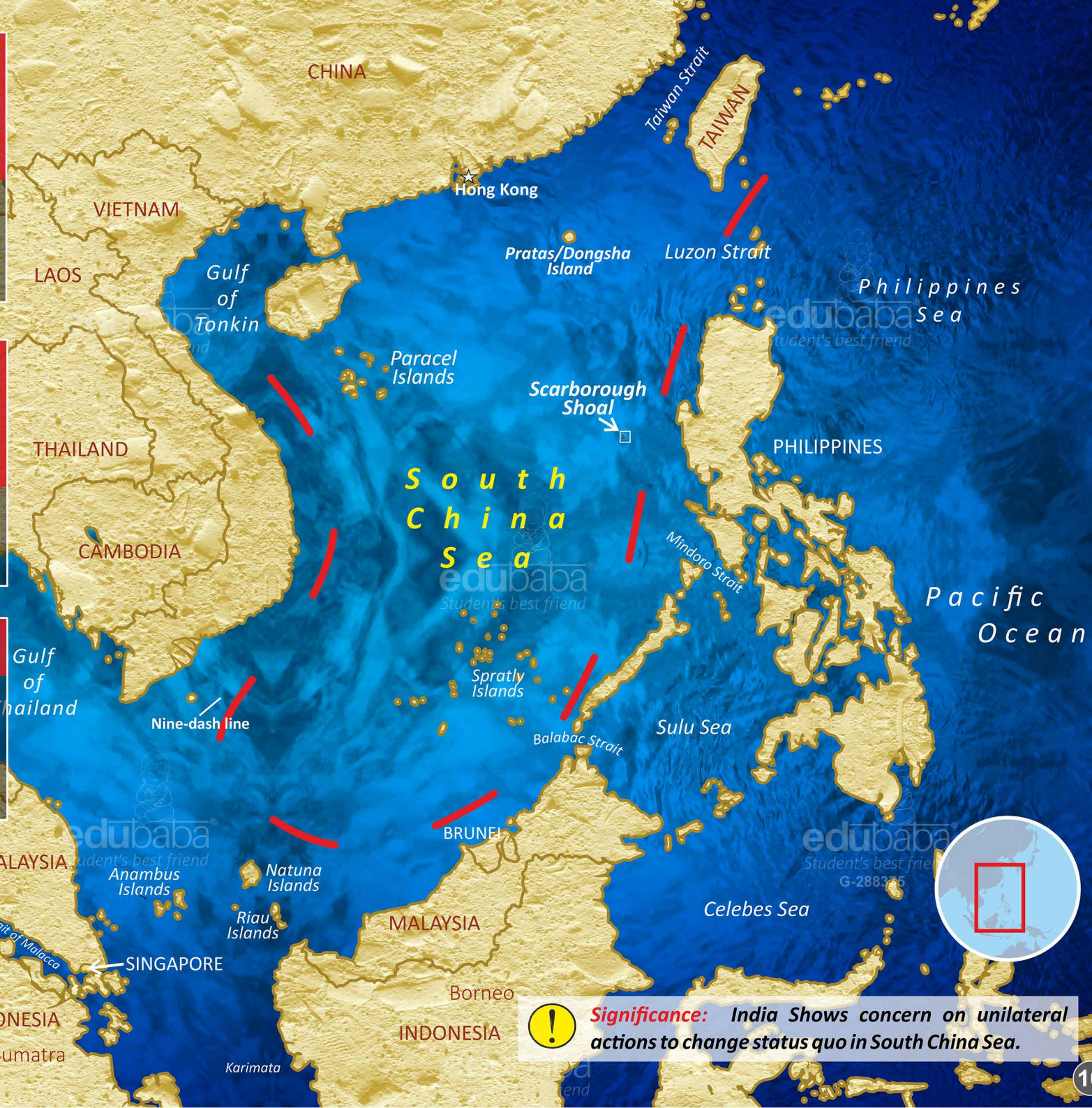
1. Spratly Islands
2. Natuna Islands
3. Paracel Islands.
4. Scarborough Shoal

- a) 3-4-2-1
- b) 4-3-1-2
- c) 3-4-1-2
- d) 4-1-2-3

A-20 The Nine-dash line, sometimes seen in the news, refers to or appears in the context of:

- a) Territorial disputes between South Korea and North Korea
- b) An imaginary latitude separating the Andaman and Nicobar group of Islands.
- c) Disputes in the countries bordering the Black Sea.
- d) Maritime disputes in the South China Sea

Indian Ocean



**Significance:** India Shows concern on unilateral actions to change status quo in South China Sea.





A-21 Identify the countries marked 1,2,3,4,5

(a) 1:Myanmar, 2:Vietnam, 3:Thailand , 4:Laos, 5:Cambodia

(b) 1:Myanmar, 2:Vietnam, 3:Cambodia , 4:Thailand, 5:Laos

(c) 1:Myanmar, 2:Cambodia , 3:Vietnam, 4:Laos, 5:Thailand

(d) 1:Myanmar, 2:Vietnam, 3:Laos, 4:Thailand, 5:Cambodia



A-22 Papua New Guinea is located on the island of New Guinea, just north of Australia, seen at the bottom of this map. It is on the east half of the island, the west half of which is part of what country?

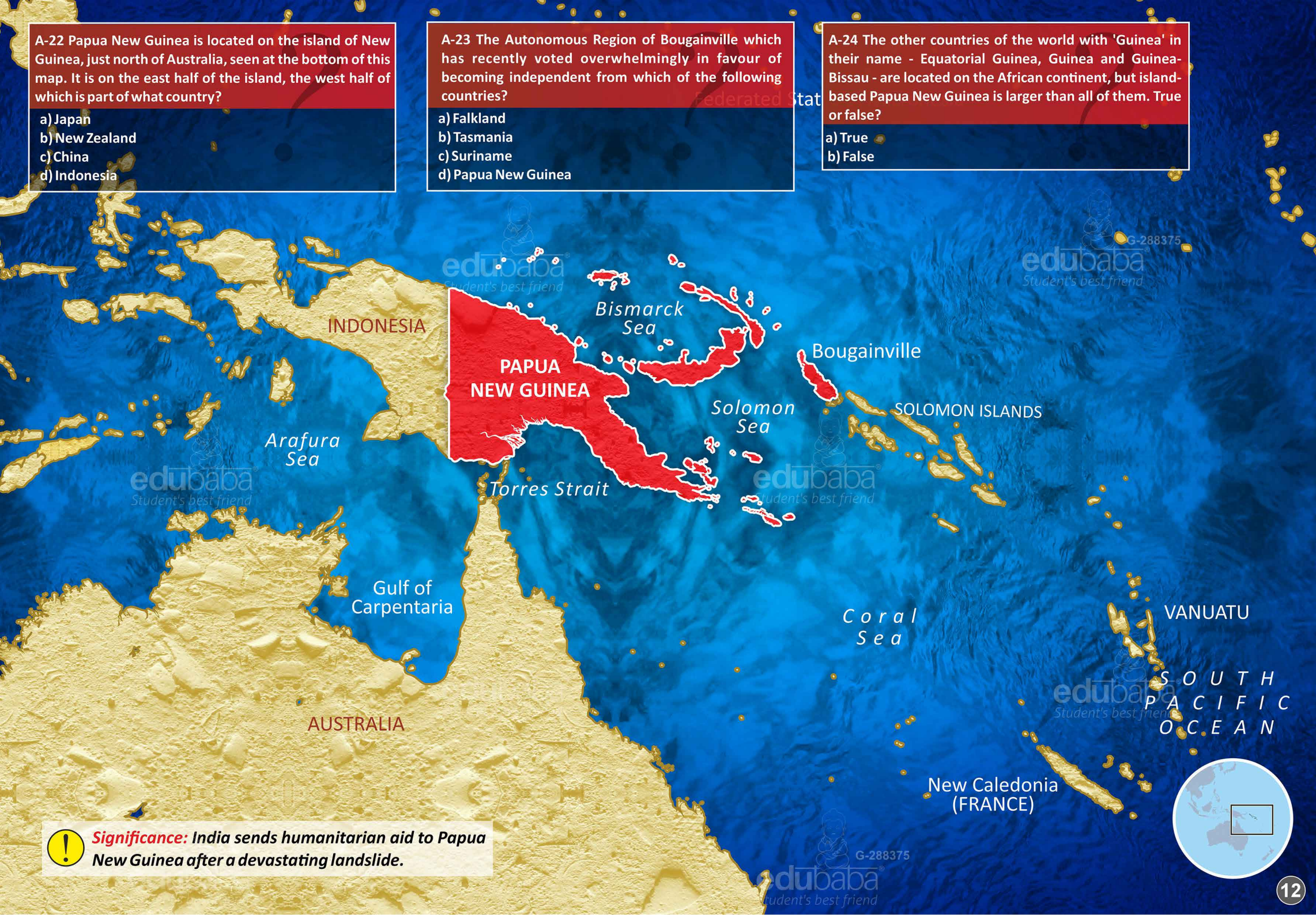
- a) Japan
- b) New Zealand
- c) China
- d) Indonesia

A-23 The Autonomous Region of Bougainville which has recently voted overwhelmingly in favour of becoming independent from which of the following countries?

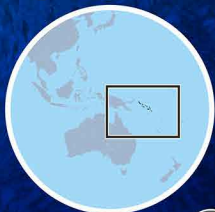
- a) Falkland
- b) Tasmania
- c) Suriname
- d) Papua New Guinea

A-24 The other countries of the world with 'Guinea' in their name - Equatorial Guinea, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau - are located on the African continent, but island-based Papua New Guinea is larger than all of them. True or false?

- a) True
- b) False



**Significance:** India sends humanitarian aid to Papua New Guinea after a devastating landslide.





**A-25 Which among the following is the World's largest Wetland System?**

- a) Camargue (France)
- b) Okavango (Botswana)
- c) Pantanal (South America)
- d) Everglades (USA)

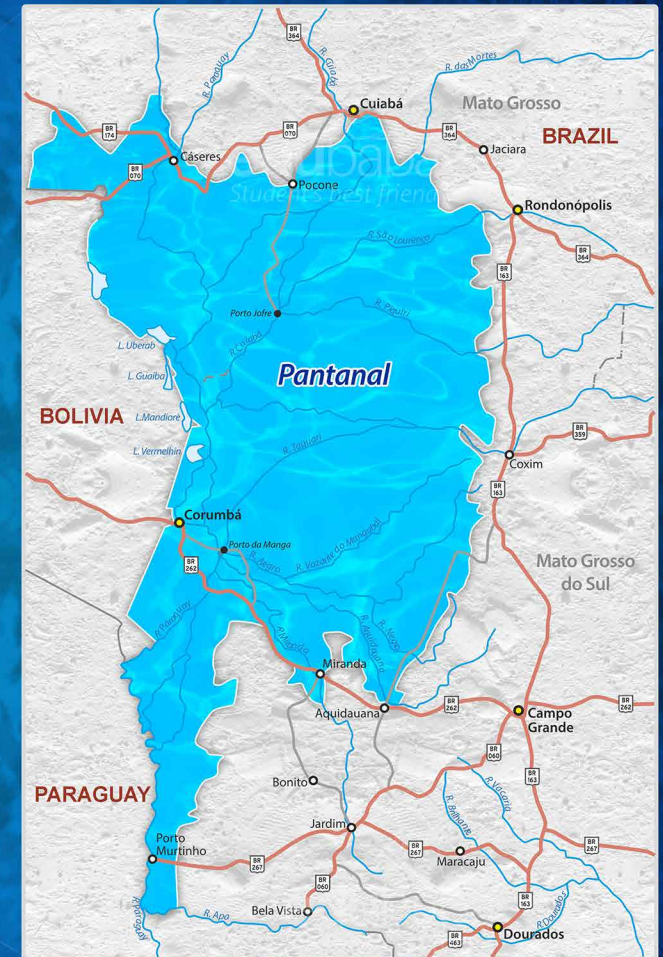
**A-26 Which countries share the Pantanal wetland?**

- a) Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay
- b) Brazil, Bolivia, and Paraguay
- c) Brazil and Venezuela
- d) Brazil and Peru

South  
Pacific  
Ocean

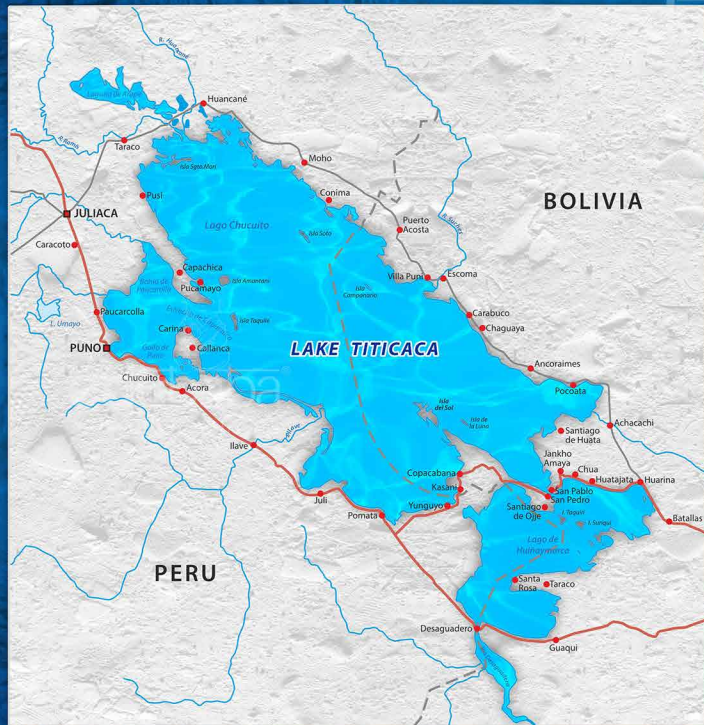
North  
Atlantic  
Ocean

South  
Atlantic  
Ocean



**Significance:** South America's Pantanal wetlands is grappling with devastating wildfires.





South  
Pacific  
Ocean

A-27 Consider the following statements:  
1. It is the highest navigable water body in the world.  
2. It is the largest freshwater lake in South America.  
3. It is designated Ramsar Site of International Importance.

Which one of the following lakes has been described above?

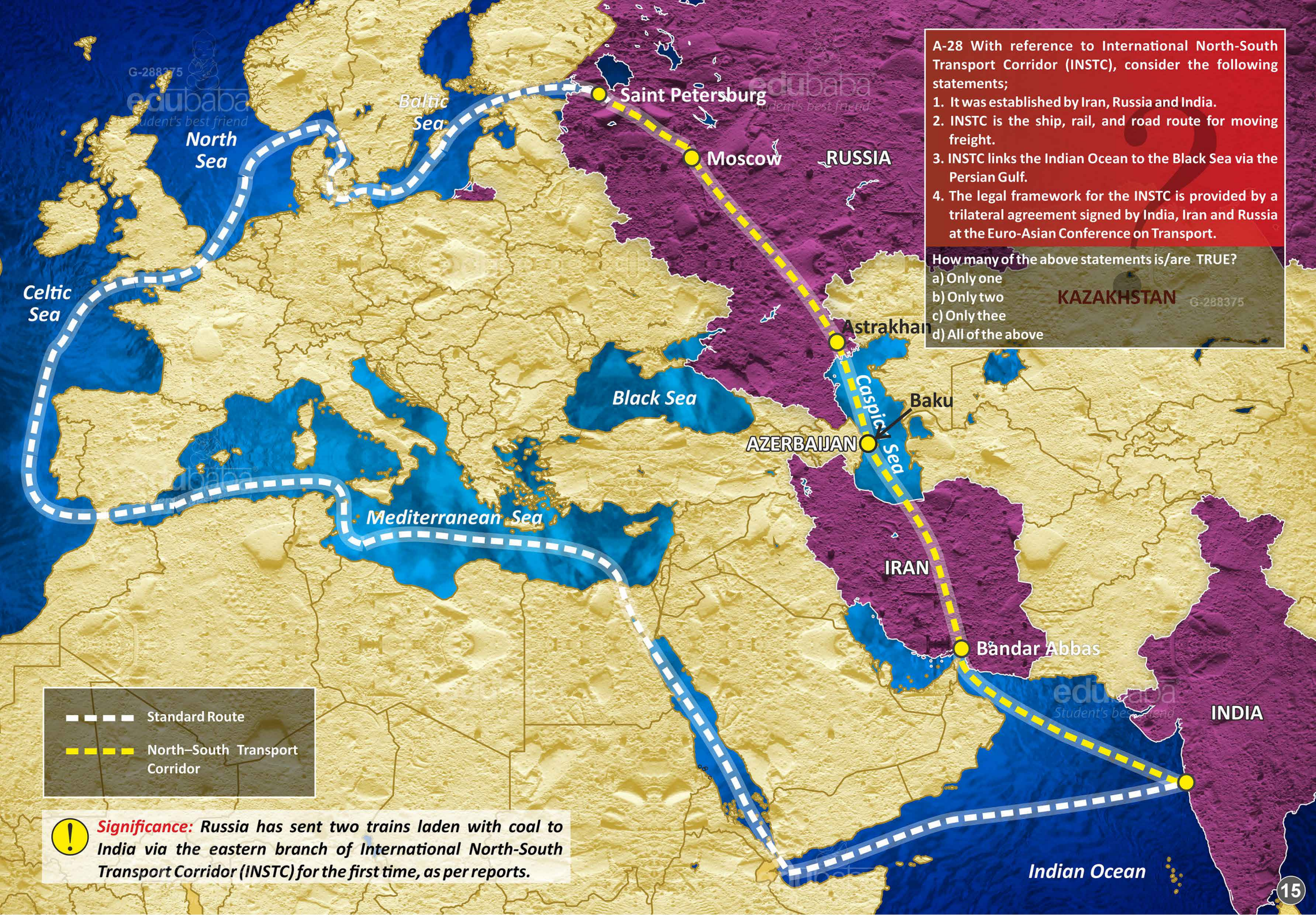
- a) Nahuel Huapi Lake
- b) Lake Titicaca
- c) Lake Maracaibo
- d) Lake General Carrera

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**Significance:** Titicaca in Crisis: Climate Change Is Drying Up the Biggest Lake in the Andes, Persistent drought has caused havoc for the Indigenous peoples who live on floating islands and depend on rains that have stopped falling.





A-28 With reference to International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), consider the following statements;

1. It was established by Iran, Russia and India.
2. INSTC is the ship, rail, and road route for moving freight.
3. INSTC links the Indian Ocean to the Black Sea via the Persian Gulf.
4. The legal framework for the INSTC is provided by a trilateral agreement signed by India, Iran and Russia at the Euro-Asian Conference on Transport.

How many of the above statements is/are TRUE?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All of the above

- Standard Route
- North-South Transport Corridor



**Significance:** Russia has sent two trains laden with coal to India via the eastern branch of International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) for the first time, as per reports.



RUSSIA

A-29 Where is the Davis Strait located?

- a) Between Iceland and Norway
- b) Between Antarctica and South America
- c) Between Alaska and Siberia
- d) Between Greenland and Canada

Chukchi Sea

A-30 How do you spell the name of the biggest bay in Canada?

- a) Hudson Bay
- b) Baffin Bay
- c) James Bay
- d) Bafinn Bay

Alaska

A-31 Mackenzie River Is the largest and longest river basin of which one the following countries?

- a) Russia
- b) Australia
- c) Canada
- d) Germany

Gulf of Alaska

ARCTIC OCEAN

Beaufort Sea

GREENLAND (DK)

ICELAND

Baffin Bay

Davis Strait

Labrador Sea

Hudson Strait

Hudson Bay

CANADA

PACIFIC OCEAN

ATLANTIC OCEAN

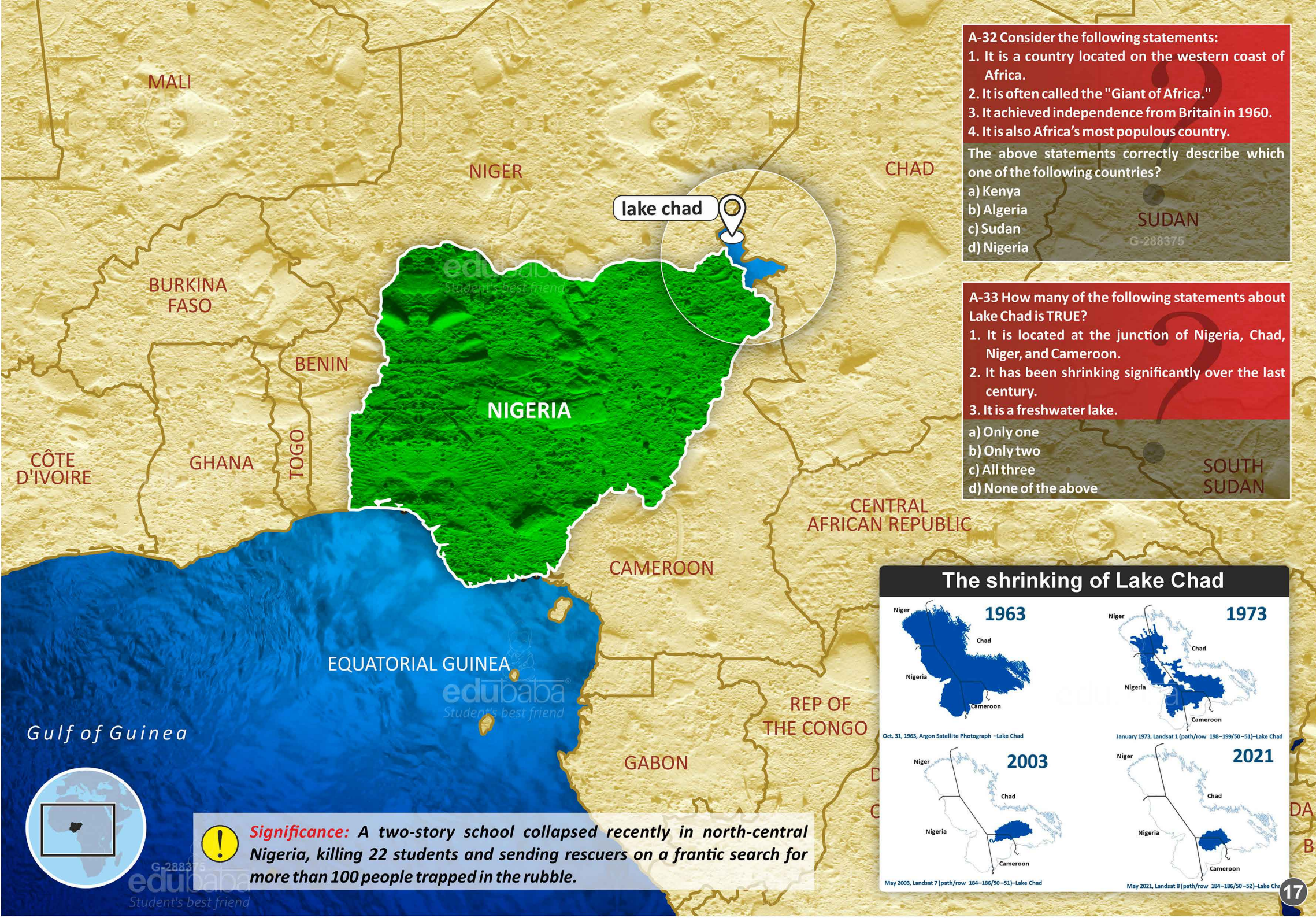


**Significance:** A microcontinent has been recently discovered in the Davis Strait, between Canada and Greenland.

**Significance:** Canada's longest river, the Mackenzie, is experiencing historically low water levels.

U.S.A.





A-32 Consider the following statements:

1. It is a country located on the western coast of Africa.
2. It is often called the "Giant of Africa."
3. It achieved independence from Britain in 1960.
4. It is also Africa's most populous country.

The above statements correctly describe which one of the following countries?

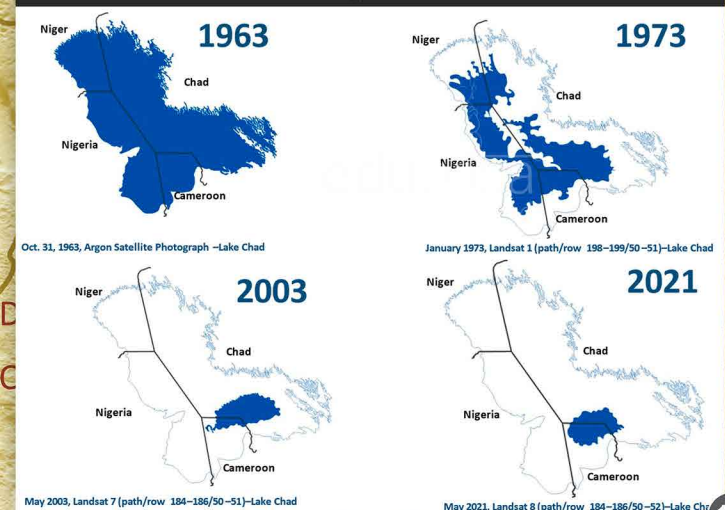
- a) Kenya
- b) Algeria
- c) Sudan
- d) Nigeria

A-33 How many of the following statements about Lake Chad is TRUE?

1. It is located at the junction of Nigeria, Chad, Niger, and Cameroon.
2. It has been shrinking significantly over the last century.
3. It is a freshwater lake.

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None of the above

### The shrinking of Lake Chad



**Significance:** A two-story school collapsed recently in north-central Nigeria, killing 22 students and sending rescuers on a frantic search for more than 100 people trapped in the rubble.



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Cape  
Lopez

NAMIB DESERT

ANGOLA

ZAMBIA

ZIMBABWE

NAMIBIA

BOTSWANA

KALAHARI  
DESERT

SWAZILAND

LESOTHO

SOUTH AFRICA

Benguela Current

South  
Atlantic  
Ocean



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Student's best friend

A-34 Namaqualand, recently seen in the news, lies in which one of the following regions?

- a) Southeast Asia
- b) Middle East
- c) Southwestern Africa
- d) South America

A-35 Consider the following statements about the Namib Desert:

1. It is one of the oldest deserts in the world.
2. The desert spans three countries: Namibia, South Africa, and Angola.
3. The Namib Desert is home to the highest sand dunes in the world, found at Sossusvlei.
4. It is bounded by the Atlantic Ocean to the west and the Kalahari Desert to the east

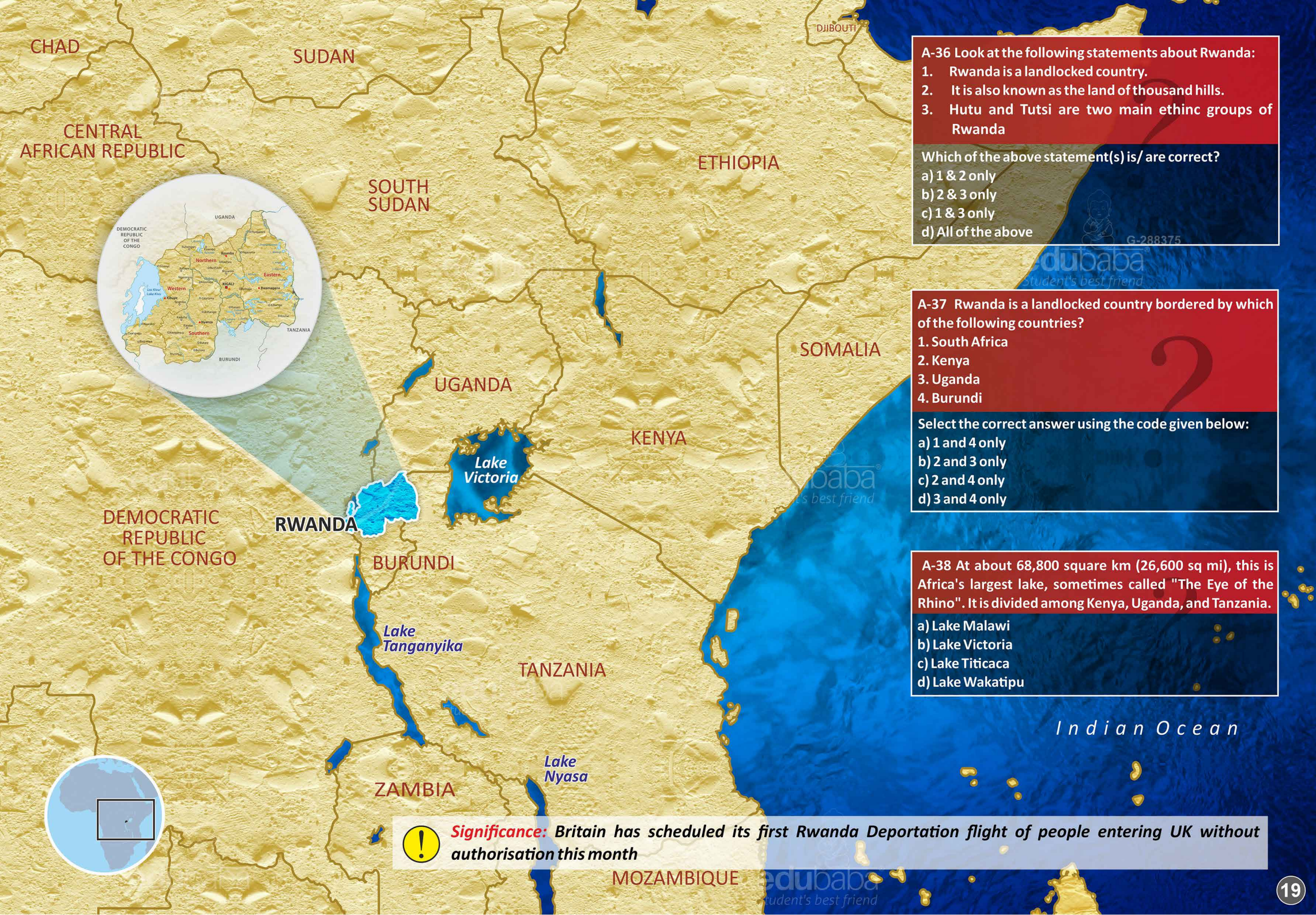
Select the correct answer based on the codes given below:

- a) 1 & 2 only
- b) 2 & 3 only
- c) 2, 3 & 4 only
- d) All of the above

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A-36 Look at the following statements about Rwanda:

1. Rwanda is a landlocked country.
2. It is also known as the land of thousand hills.
3. Hutu and Tutsi are two main ethnic groups of Rwanda

Which of the above statement(s) is/ are correct?

- a) 1 & 2 only
- b) 2 & 3 only
- c) 1 & 3 only
- d) All of the above

A-37 Rwanda is a landlocked country bordered by which of the following countries?

1. South Africa
2. Kenya
3. Uganda
4. Burundi

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 and 4 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 2 and 4 only
- d) 3 and 4 only

A-38 At about 68,800 square km (26,600 sq mi), this is Africa's largest lake, sometimes called "The Eye of the Rhino". It is divided among Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania.

- a) Lake Malawi
- b) Lake Victoria
- c) Lake Titicaca
- d) Lake Wakatipu



**Significance:** Britain has scheduled its first Rwanda Deportation flight of people entering UK without authorisation this month





A-39 The Rhine River flows through or along the borders of which of the following countries?

1. Switzerland
2. France
3. Belgium
4. Germany
5. Netherlands

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

- a) 1, 2, and 4 only
- b) 1, 2, 4, and 5 only
- c) 1, 3, 4, and 5 only
- d) All of the above

A-40 Consider the following statements about the Rhine River:

1. It originates in the Swiss Alps.
2. It forms part of the border between Germany and France.
3. It empties into the North Sea.
4. It is the longest river in Europe.

Which of the statements above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1, 2, and 3 only
- c) 2, 3, and 4 only
- d) All of the above

**Significance:** Parts of the Rhine River in southern Germany were closed to cargo shipping recently after heavy rains raised water levels.



A-41 With reference to the MERCOSUR, consider the following statements:

1. It was created by signing the Treaty of Asunción in 1991.
2. India has signed the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with MERCOSUR.
3. It originally comprised Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay as its members.

How many of these statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) Only Four
- e) All of the above

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South  
Pacific  
Ocean

- Full Members
- Associate Members
- Suspended Members
- New Members



**Significance:** Recently, Bolivia became a full-time member of MERCOSUR groupings to increase trade with member countries.

Falkland Islands  
(Islas Malvinas)  
(administered by U.K.,  
claimed by ARGENTINA)



A-42 Mongla Port is located in which one of the following countries?

- a) Bangladesh
- b) Nepal
- c) Myanmar
- d) Bhutan

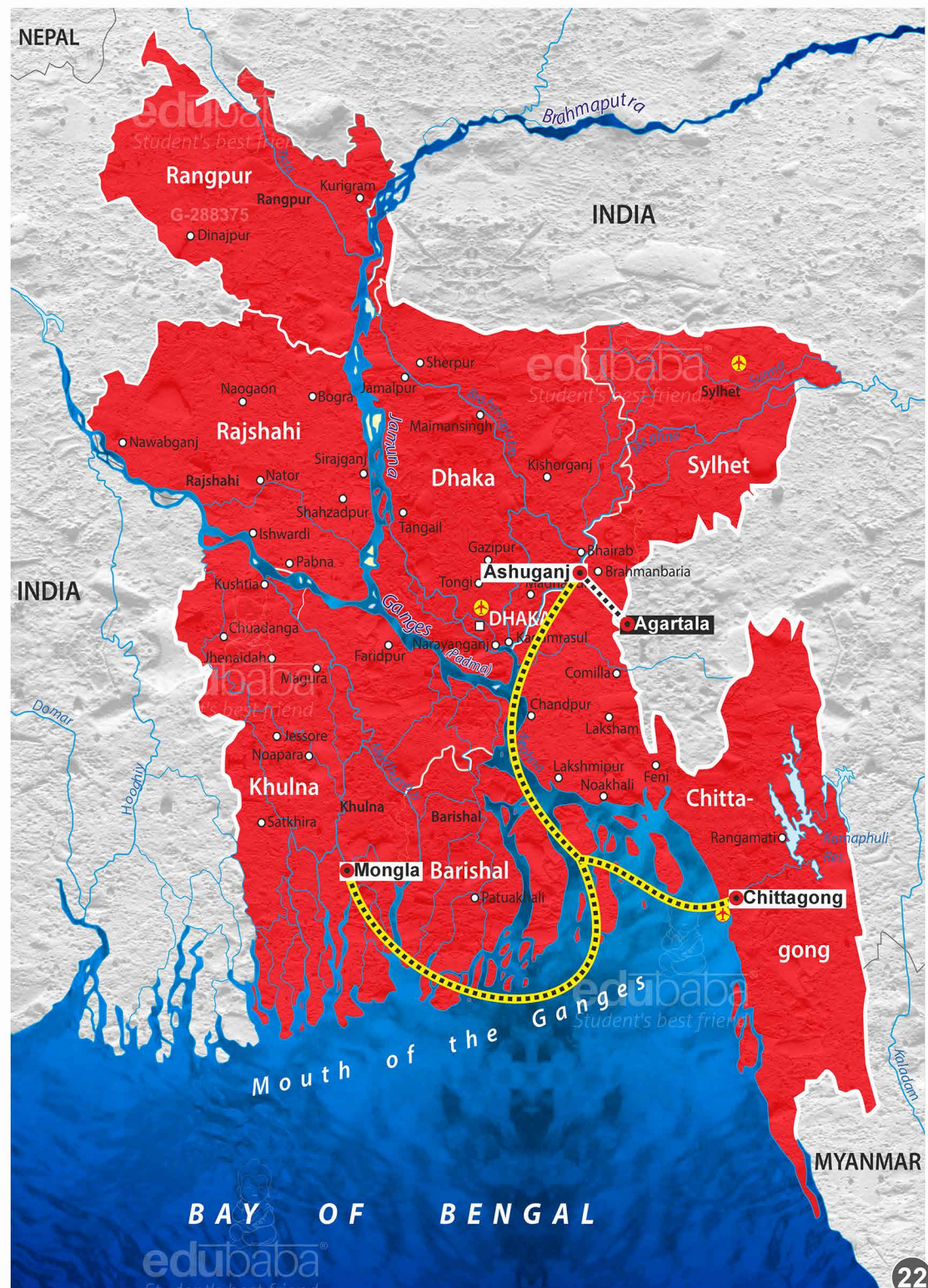
A-43 Which of the following countries shares a border with Bangladesh?

- 1. Bhutan
- 2. India
- 3. Myanmar
- 4. Nepal

- a) Only 2 and 3
- b) Only 1, 2, and 3
- c) Only 2 and 4
- d) All of the above



**Significance:** India is looking to operate the Mongla Port in Bangladesh and build a new terminal, aiming to counterbalance China's strategic presence in the region.





B-1 Think about the following countries:

1. Somalia
2. Paraguay
3. Uganda
4. Colombia
5. Indonesia

Equator passes through which of above countries-

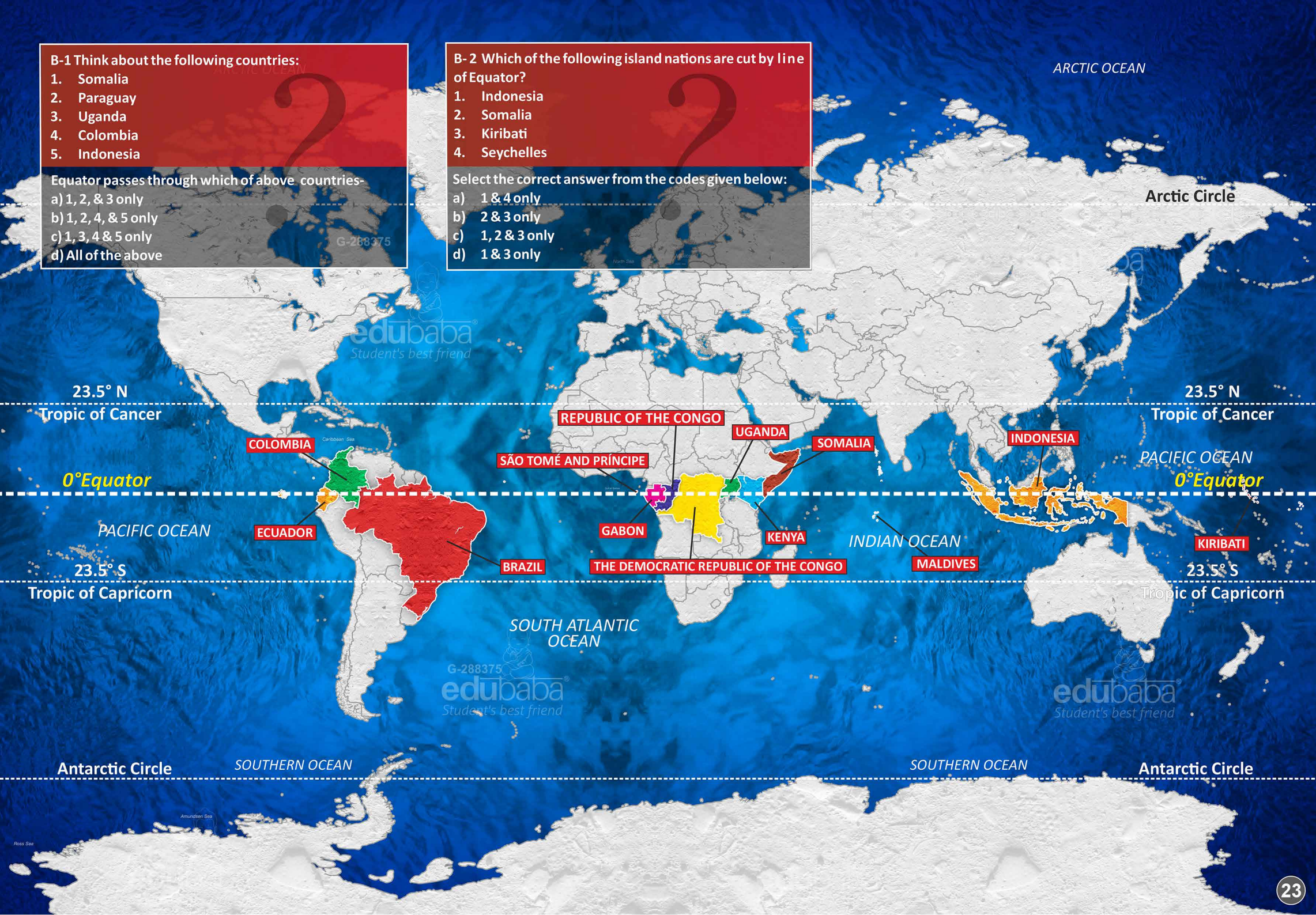
- a) 1, 2, & 3 only
- b) 1, 2, 4, & 5 only
- c) 1, 3, 4 & 5 only
- d) All of the above

B-2 Which of the following island nations are cut by line of Equator?

1. Indonesia
2. Somalia
3. Kiribati
4. Seychelles

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

- a) 1 & 4 only
- b) 2 & 3 only
- c) 1, 2 & 3 only
- d) 1 & 3 only





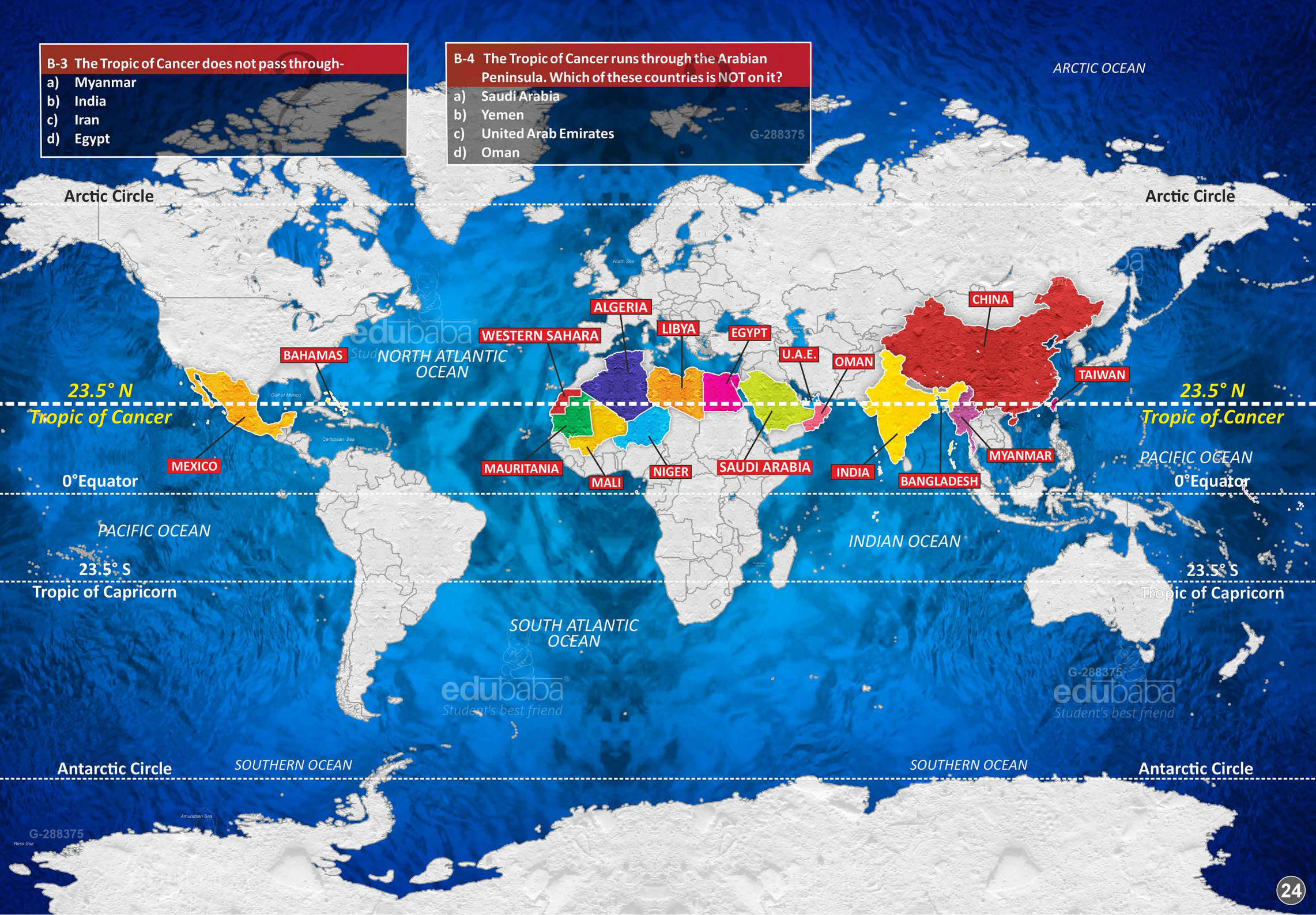
B-3 The Tropic of Cancer does not pass through-

- a) Myanmar
- b) India
- c) Iran
- d) Egypt

B-4 The Tropic of Cancer runs through the Arabian Peninsula. Which of these countries is NOT on it?

- a) Saudi Arabia
- b) Yemen
- c) United Arab Emirates
- d) Oman

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B-5 Consider the following statements:

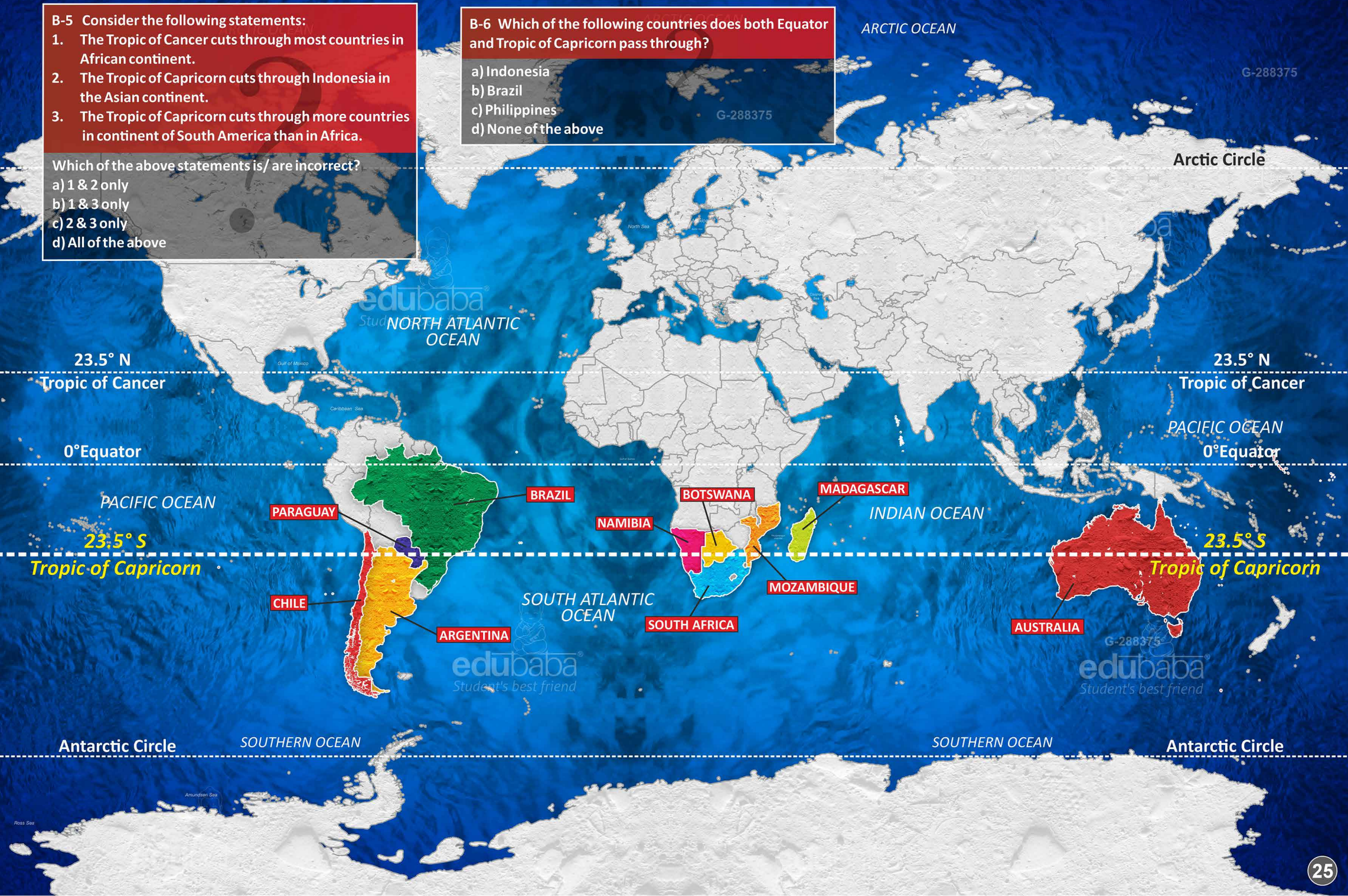
1. The Tropic of Cancer cuts through most countries in African continent.
2. The Tropic of Capricorn cuts through Indonesia in the Asian continent.
3. The Tropic of Capricorn cuts through more countries in continent of South America than in Africa.

Which of the above statements is/ are incorrect?

- a) 1 & 2 only
- b) 1 & 3 only
- c) 2 & 3 only
- d) All of the above

B-6 Which of the following countries does both Equator and Tropic of Capricorn pass through?

- a) Indonesia
- b) Brazil
- c) Philippines
- d) None of the above





B-7 The Prime Meridian passes through. –

1. Algeria
2. France
3. Nigeria
4. Portugal

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Select the correct answer using the code given below.

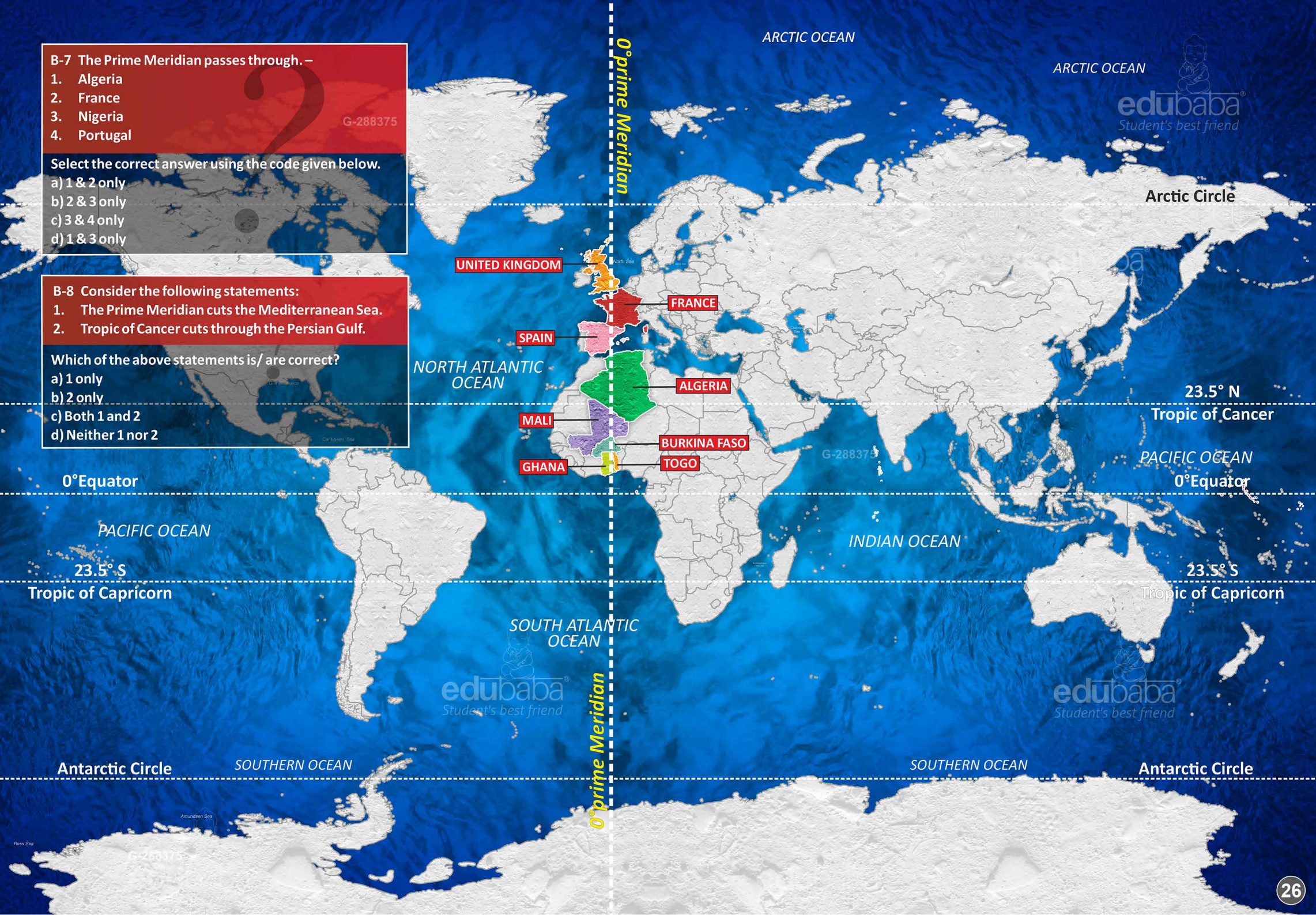
- a) 1 & 2 only
- b) 2 & 3 only
- c) 3 & 4 only
- d) 1 & 3 only

B-8 Consider the following statements:

1. The Prime Meridian cuts the Mediterranean Sea.
2. Tropic of Cancer cuts through the Persian Gulf.

Which of the above statements is/ are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2





B-9 Which of the following countries do not penetrate the Arctic Circle?

1. USA
2. Norway
3. United Kingdom
4. Estonia

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

- a) 1 & 2 only
- b) 3 & 4 only
- c) 1 & 3 only
- d) 1 & 4 only

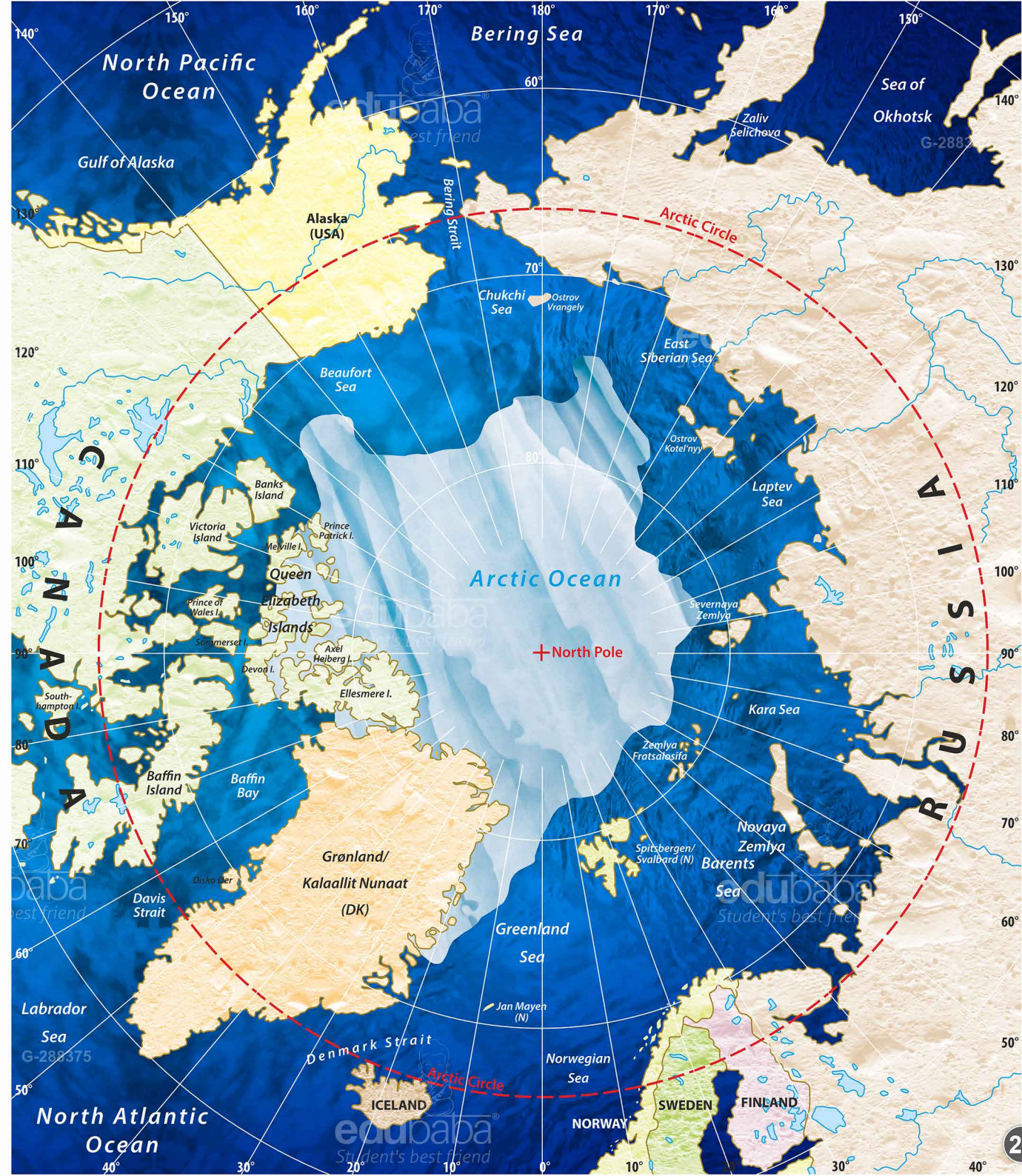
B-10 After crossing Norway, Sweden, and Finland east across the Arctic Circle, you reach another country by land. Unlike crossing from North America to Europe, there is no ocean in between. Which country will you find next along the Arctic Circle?

- a) Estonia
- b) Russia
- c) Lithuania
- d) Latvia

B-11 To the east of northern Canada is Greenland. The Arctic Circle goes through Greenland. Is more than half of Greenland north of the Arctic Circle?

- a) Yes
- b) No

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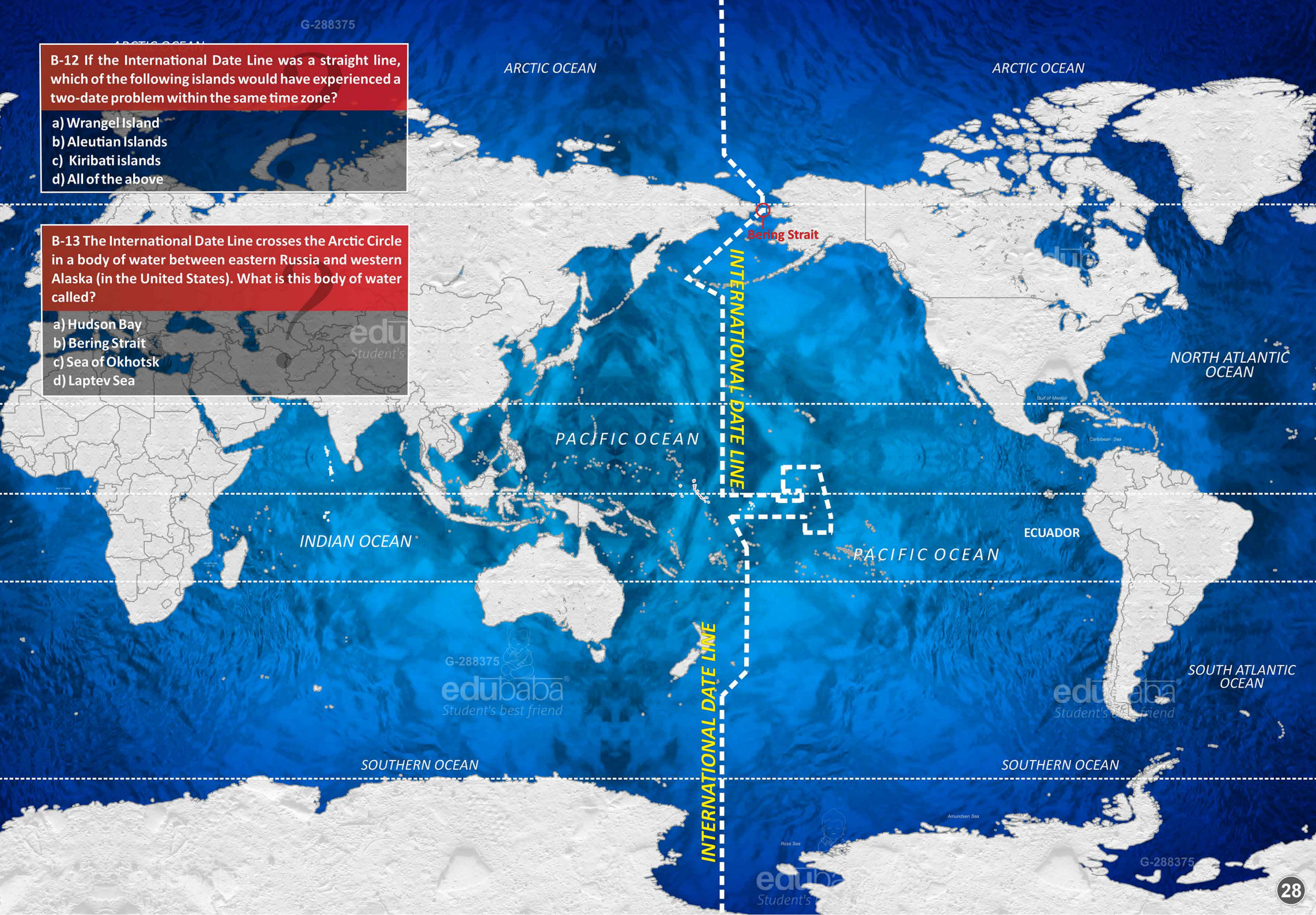


B-12 If the International Date Line was a straight line, which of the following islands would have experienced a two-date problem within the same time zone?

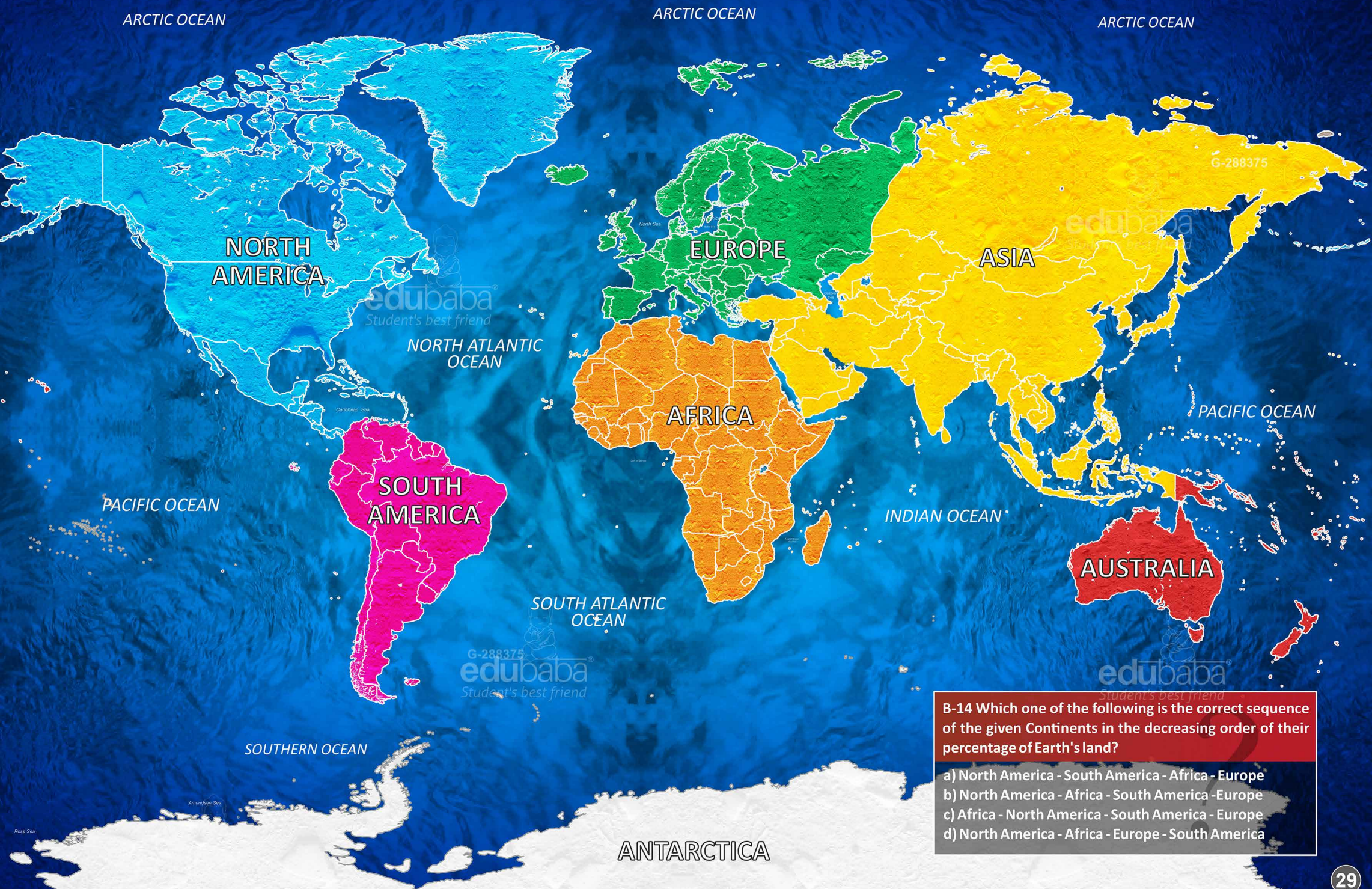
- a) Wrangel Island
- b) Aleutian Islands
- c) Kiribati islands
- d) All of the above

B-13 The International Date Line crosses the Arctic Circle in a body of water between eastern Russia and western Alaska (in the United States). What is this body of water called?

- a) Hudson Bay
- b) Bering Strait
- c) Sea of Okhotsk
- d) Laptev Sea











B-15 Look at the following Countries:

- 1 Andorra
- 2 Ukraine
- 3 Kosovo
- 4 Bulgaria
- 5 Belarus

Which of the above are landlocked countries?

- a) 1, 2 & 3 only
- b) 1, 3 & 5 only
- c) 1, 3, 4 & 5 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 & 4 only



North  
Atlantic  
Ocean

G-288375

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Canary Island  
(SPAIN)

Mediterranean Sea

B-16 Look at the following Countries:

- 1 Ethiopia
- 2 Democratic Republic of the Congo
- 3 Central African Republic
- 4 Malawi
- 5 Zambia

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Which of the above are landlocked countries?

- a) 1, 2 & 3 only
- b) 1, 2 & 4 only
- c) 1, 3, 4 & 5 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 & 4 only

CAPE VERDE

GAMBIA

GUINEA-BISSAU

GUINEA

SIERRA  
LEONE

LIBERIA

Cape Palmas

Gulf of Guinea

SOUTH  
ATLANTIC  
OCEAN

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Cape  
Lopez

BOTSWANA

NAMIBIA

SOUTH AFRICA

LESOTHO

ZAMBIA

BURUNDI

CENTRAL  
AFRICAN  
REPUBLIC

SOUTH SUDAN

CHAD

NIGER

MALI

BURKINA  
FASO

GHANA

TOGO

BENIN

NIGERIA

CAMEROON

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

SAO TOME  
& PRINCIPE

GABON

REP. OF  
THE CONGO

DEMOCRATIC  
REPUBLIC  
OF THE CONGO

RWANDA

UGANDA

KENYA

ETHIOPIA

SOMALIA

MALAWI

MOZAMBIQUE

ZIMBABWE

SWAZILAND

MADAGASCAR

Socotra  
(YEMEN)

Arabian  
Sea



COSTA RICA

PANAMA

VENEZUELA

GUYANA

SURINAME

FRENCH GUIANA

COLOMBIA

ECUADOR

Galapagos  
Island  
ECUADOR

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PERU

BRAZIL

BOLIVIA

PARAGUAY

ARGENTINA

URUGUAY

CHILE

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B-17 Argentina borders the two landlocked countries in South America. What are they?

- a) Bolivia and Paraguay
- b) Uruguay and Ecuador
- c) Paraguay and Uruguay
- d) Paraguay and Peru

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North  
Atlantic  
Ocean

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South  
Pacific  
Ocean

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edubaba  
Student's best friend

South  
Atlantic  
Ocean

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Falkland Islands  
(Islas Malvinas)  
(administered by U.K.,  
claimed by ARGENTINA)

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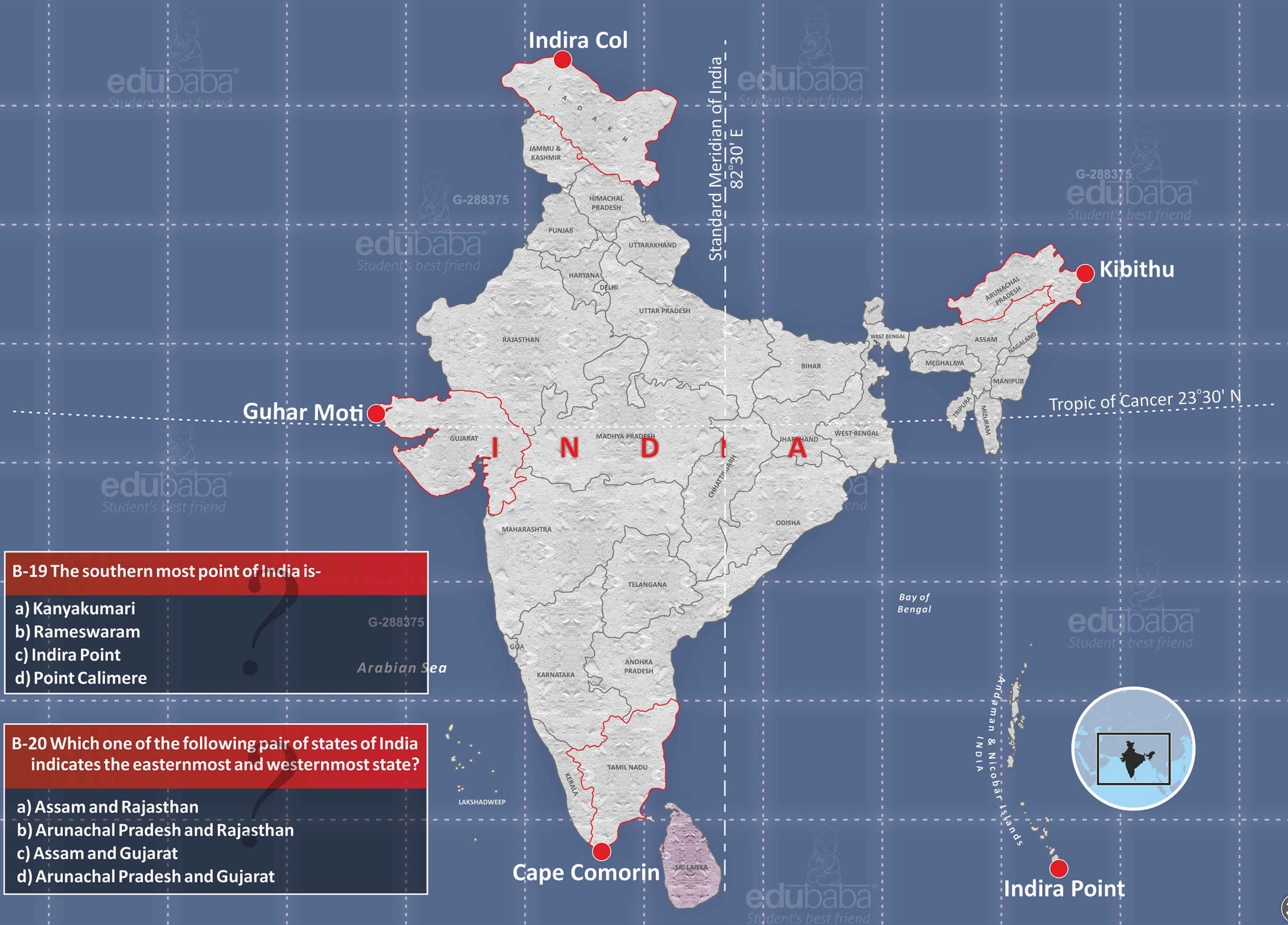


**B-19 The southern most point of India is-**

- a) Kanyakumari
- b) Rameswaram
- c) Indira Point
- d) Point Calimere

**B-20 Which one of the following pair of states of India indicates the easternmost and westernmost state?**

- a) Assam and Rajasthan
- b) Arunachal Pradesh and Rajasthan
- c) Assam and Gujarat
- d) Arunachal Pradesh and Gujarat





Tropic of Cancer 23°30' N

68°7' E

37°6' N

Standard Meridian of India  
82°30' E

97°25' E

Tropic of Cancer 23°30' N

B-21 Tropic of Cancer cuts through which of the following Indian states?

1. Chhattisgarh
2. Tripura
3. Mizoram
4. Manipur
5. Rajasthan

Select the correct answer based on codes given below:

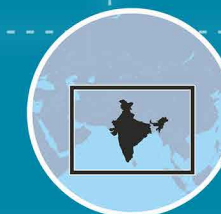
- a) 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5
- b) 2, 3 & 5 only
- c) 1, 3 & 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 & 5 only

G-288375

8°4' N

Bay of Bengal

Andaman & Nicobar Islands





Tropic of Cancer  $23^{\circ}30' N$

$68^{\circ}7' E$

$37^{\circ}6' N$

Standard Meridian of India  
 $82^{\circ}30' E$

$97^{\circ}25' E$

Tropic of Cancer  $23^{\circ}30' N$

Bay of Bengal

B-22 Longitudinal line of Indian Standard Time (IST) cuts through which of the following states?

1. Uttar Pradesh
2. Andhra Pradesh
3. Madhya Pradesh
4. Jharkhand
5. Bihar

Select the correct answer based on codes given below:

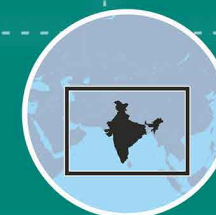
- a) 1, 2 & 3 only
- b) 1, 2, 3 & 4 only
- c) 2, 3, 4 & 5 only
- d) 1, 2 & 4 only

G-288375  
ARUNACHAL PRADESH

LAKSHADWEEP

$8^{\circ}4' N$

Andaman & Nicobar Islands





## LAKSHADWEEP

Cherbaniani Reef

Byramgore Reef

Chettalatt I.

Bitra I.

Kilttan I.

Kadamatt I.

Amini I.

Perumalpar Reef.

\*Pitti I.

Bangaram I.

Agatti I.

Andrott I.

Kavaratti

ARABIAN  
SEA

G-288375

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Suheli I.

Cheriyam I.

Kalpeni I.

Nine Degree Channel

**B-24 How many islands comprise the Lakshadweep islands?**

- a) 36
- b) 46
- c) 56
- d) 66



Minicoy I.

Eight Degree Channel

## ANDAMAN & NICOBAR

BAY  
OF  
BENGAL

Coco Channel

Landfall I.

Narcondam I.

North Andaman

Sound I.

Interview I.

Middle Andaman

Baratang I.

Ritchie's Archipelago

Swaraj Dweep (Havelock I.)

Shaheed Dweep (Neill I.)

Netaji Subash Chandra Bose Island (Ross I.)

Rutland I.

Duncan Passage

Little Andaman

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**B-23 Arrange the following islands/ channels north to south:**

1. Barren Island
2. Shaheed Dweep
3. Swaraj Dweep
4. Coco Channel
5. Great Channel

**Select the correct answer based on codes given below:**

- a) 1-3-4-2-5
- b) 4-3-1-2-5
- c) 4-3-2-5-1
- d) 4-1-3-2-5

Ten Degree Channel

ANDAMAN  
SEA

Mus Car Nicobar

Chowra I.

Camorta I.

Katchall I.

Nancowry I.

Sombrero Channel

Nicobar Islands

Little Nicobar

Great Nicobar

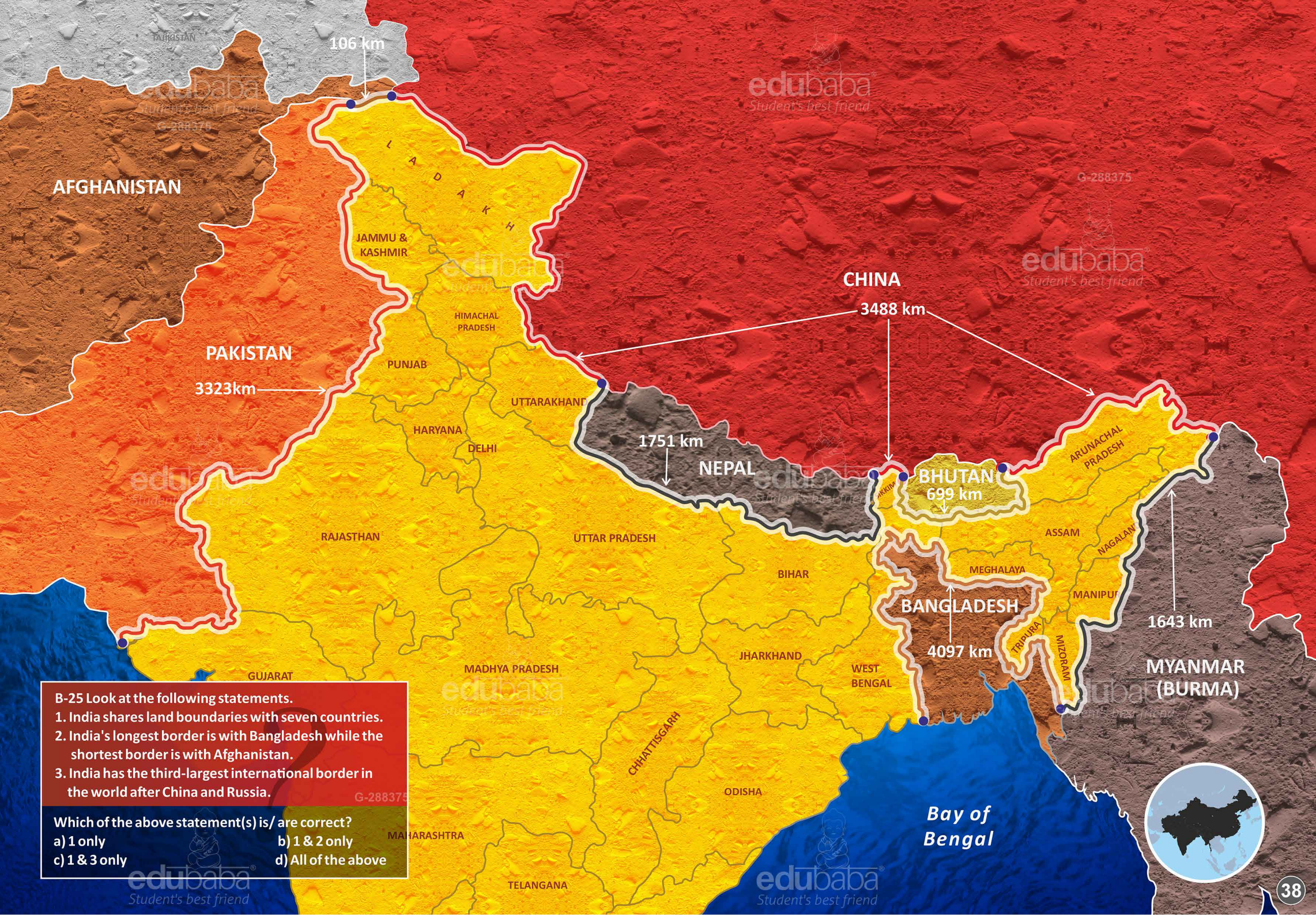
Campbell Bay

Indira Point

Great Channel







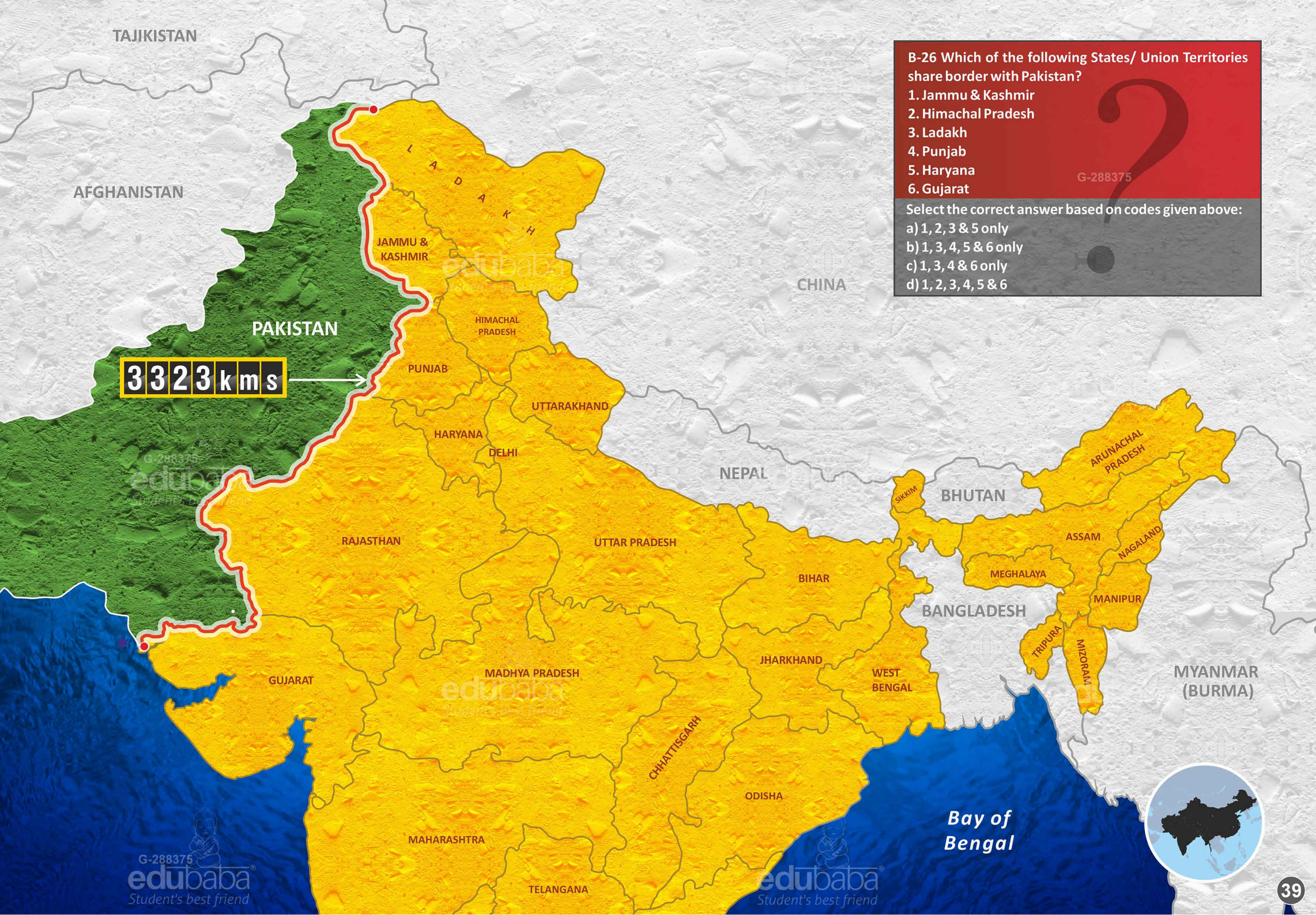
B-25 Look at the following statements.

1. India shares land boundaries with seven countries.
2. India's longest border is with Bangladesh while the shortest border is with Afghanistan.
3. India has the third-largest international border in the world after China and Russia.

Which of the above statement(s) is/ are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 & 2 only
- c) 1 & 3 only
- d) All of the above





TAJIKISTAN

AFGHANISTAN

PAKISTAN

3323 kms

JAMMU & KASHMIR

HIMACHAL PRADESH

PUNJAB

HARYANA

DELHI

RAJASTHAN

UTTAR PRADESH

BIHAR

MADHYA PRADESH

CHHATTISGARH

ODISHA

GUJARAT

MAHARASHTRA

TELANGANA

NEPAL

CHINA

BHUTAN

BANGLADESH

MYANMAR  
(BURMA)

Bay of  
Bengal

B-26 Which of the following States/ Union Territories share border with Pakistan?

1. Jammu & Kashmir
2. Himachal Pradesh
3. Ladakh
4. Punjab
5. Haryana
6. Gujarat

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Select the correct answer based on codes given above:

- a) 1, 2, 3 & 5 only
- b) 1, 3, 4, 5 & 6 only
- c) 1, 3, 4 & 6 only
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6







### Western Sector

- With 1,597km (approximately) of border, the two sides differ over the boundary lines that separates Union Territory of Ladakh (erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir) from Xinjiang province of China.

### Middle Sector

- The 545km (approximately) in this sector are the **least controversial of the three**, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand abet the boundary. Both sides do not have much disagreement over this area.

### Eastern Sector

- The 1,346km (approximately) long boundary is contentious, and is historically referred to as the **McMahon Line**, which Chinese do not accept because the McMahon Line was agreed to by Tibetan representatives. China claims the whole of Arunachal Pradesh, around 85,000sq km, as its territory.
- The two sides fought fiercely in this sector in 1962, but a better prepared Chinese had the advantage occupying Aksai Chin, and some other parts of the Ladakh region.

- Tense standoffs occasionally take place, and in summer months the two sides send deep patrols to assert their respective claims over boundaries.

B-27 With reference to the India-China border dispute, consider the following statements:

1. India shares largest land boundary with China.
2. The main differences are in the middle sector of India-China border.
3. Only Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Union Territory of Ladakh, share border with China.

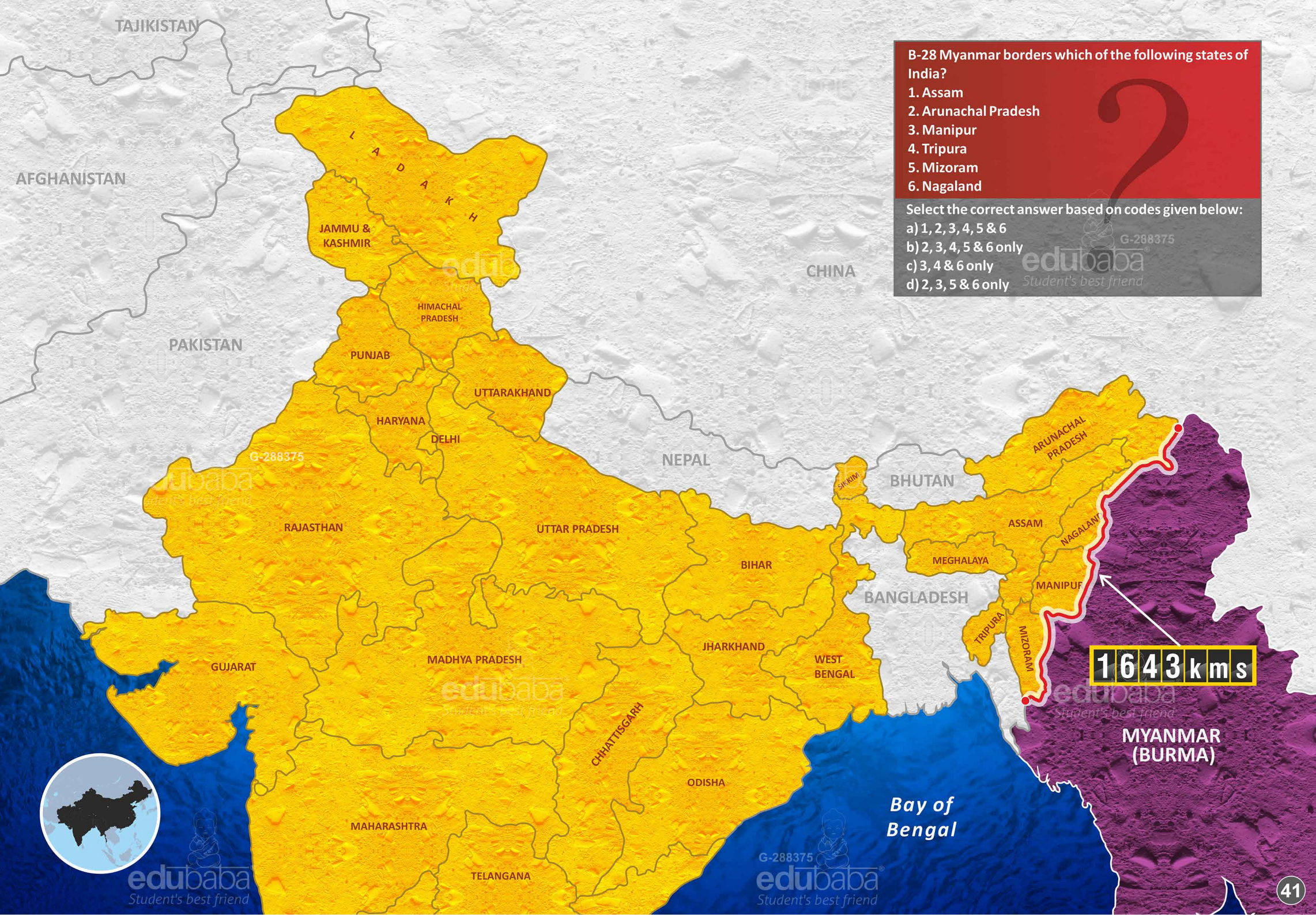
Which of the above statement(s) is/ are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 & 2 only
- c) 1 & 3 only
- d) None of the above

CHINA

3488 kms





B-28 Myanmar borders which of the following states of India?

1. Assam
2. Arunachal Pradesh
3. Manipur
4. Tripura
5. Mizoram
6. Nagaland

Select the correct answer based on codes given below:

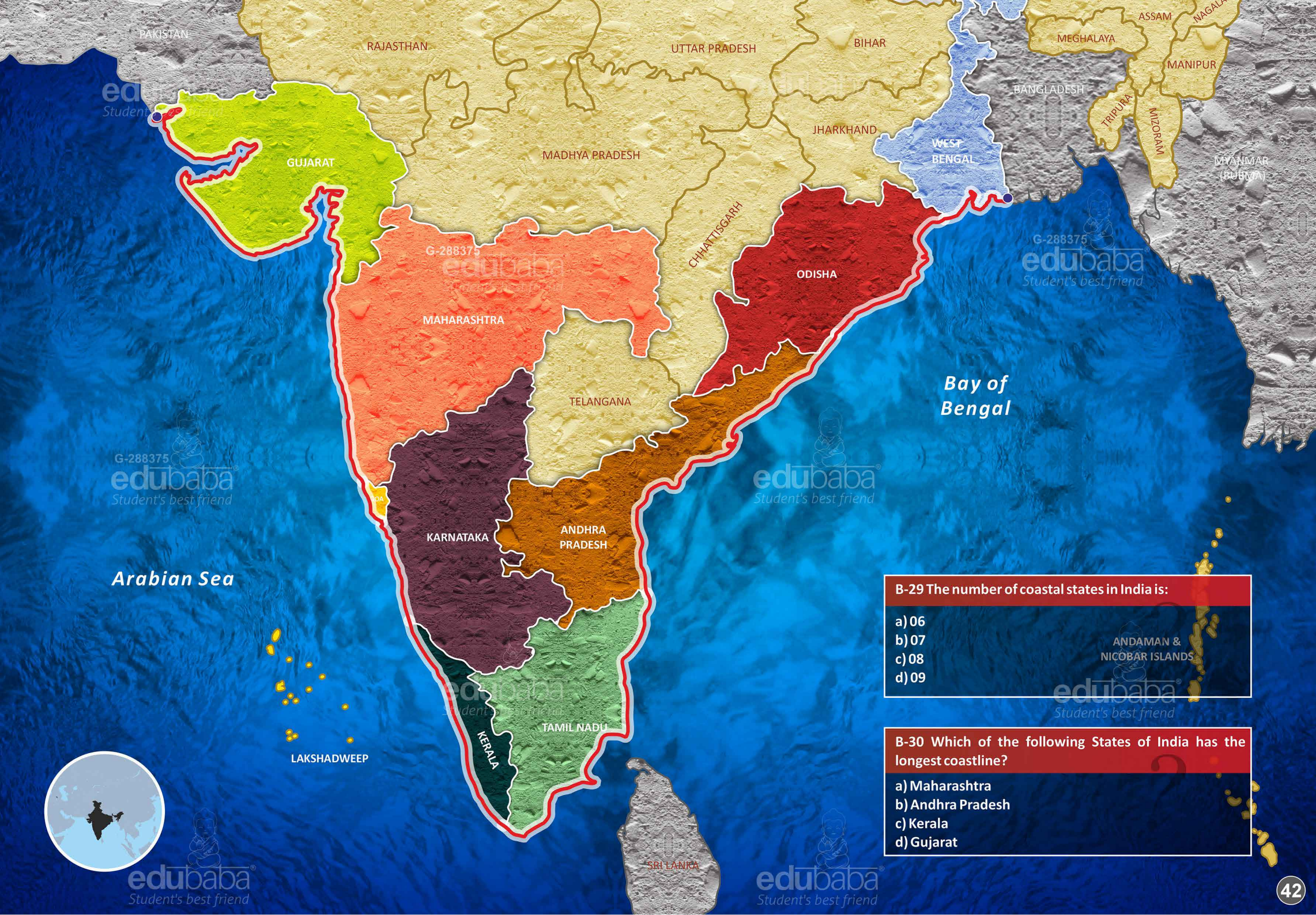
- a) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6
- b) 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 only
- c) 3, 4 & 6 only
- d) 2, 3, 5 & 6 only

1643 kms

MYANMAR  
(BURMA)

Bay of Bengal





Bay of Bengal

Arabian Sea

**B-29 The number of coastal states in India is:**

- a) 06
- b) 07
- c) 08
- d) 09

**B-30 Which of the following States of India has the longest coastline?**

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Kerala
- d) Gujarat





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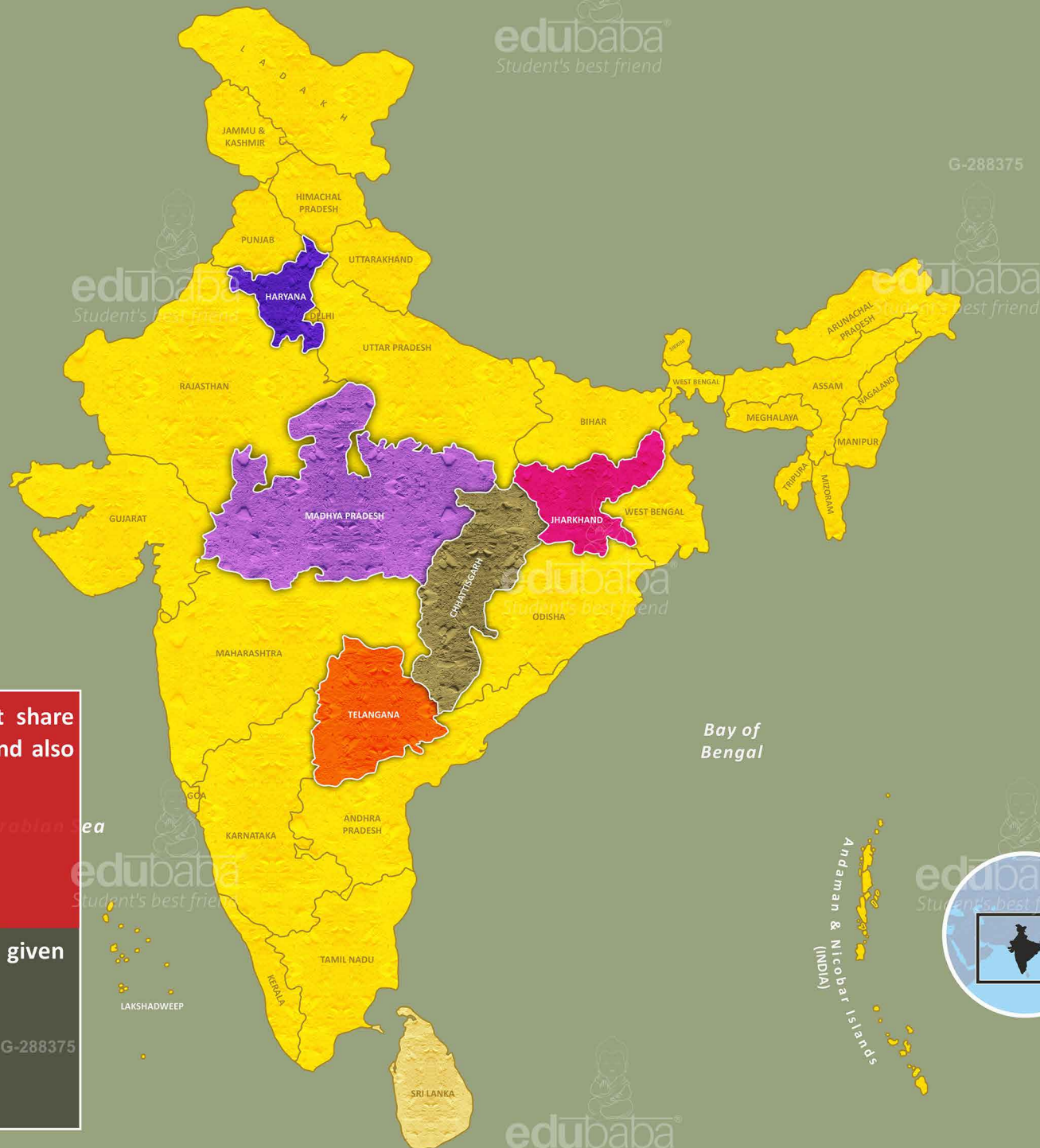
**B-31 Which of the following states do not share borders with any other sovereign country and also does not have coastline?**

- 1) Telangana
- 2) Himachal Pradesh
- 3) Jharkhand
- 4) Haryana

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1, 2 & 4 only
- b) 1 & 4 only
- c) 2, 3 & 4 only
- d) 1, 3 & 4 only

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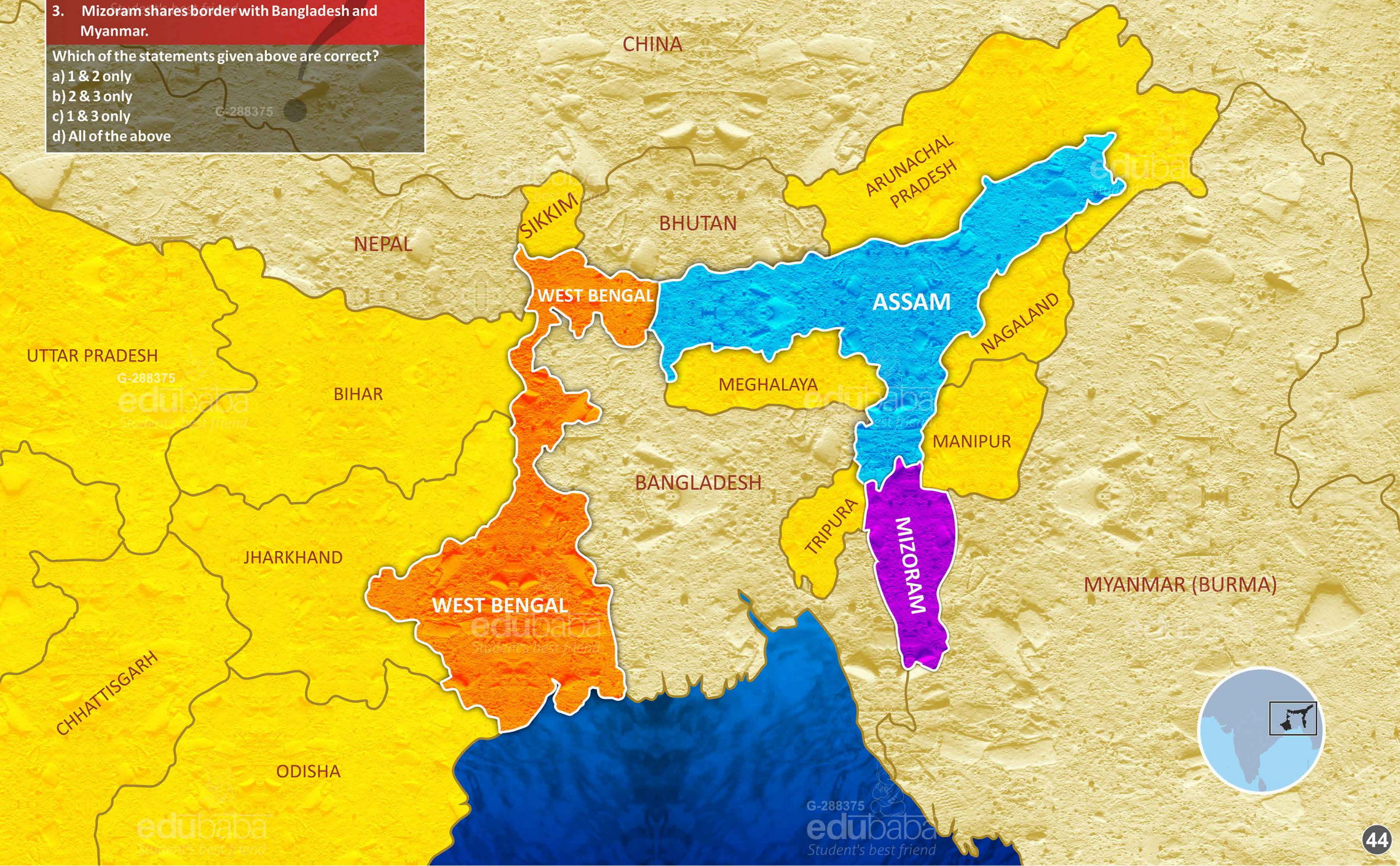


B-32 Consider the following statements:

1. Assam shares border with Bhutan and Bangladesh.
2. West Bengal shares border with Bhutan and Nepal.
3. Mizoram shares border with Bangladesh and Myanmar.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 & 2 only
- b) 2 & 3 only
- c) 1 & 3 only
- d) All of the above





**A-1 The Correct Answer is: d) All of the above**

**Explanation:** -Israel, officially the **State of Israel** is a country in the **Southern Levant region of West Asia**.

- It is **bordered** by **Lebanon** to the north, by **Syria** to the northeast, by **Jordan** to the east, by the **Red Sea** to the south, by **Egypt** to the southwest, by the **Mediterranean Sea** to the west, and by the **Palestinian territories** – the **West Bank** along the east and the **Gaza Strip** along the southwest.
- It is a narrow country **located** in the **Middle East** along the **Mediterranean Sea**.
- The **Dead Sea**, a **saltwater lake**, is **located** to the **east of Israel**, the **Dead Sea is hypersaline lake located** in the **Jordan Rift Valley**, which runs along the **eastern border of Israel**. It is the **lowest point on Earth's surface**, with an elevation of about 420 meters below sea level.
- The **Negev Desert** covers a significant portion of Israel, the **Negev Desert** occupies approximately half of Israel's land area. It is the largest desert in Israel and the **second-largest** desert in the **Middle East, after the Arabian Desert**.
- Israel's proclaimed **capital** is in **Jerusalem**, while **Tel Aviv** is the country's **largest urban** area and economic center.

**Significance:** *The Israel Palestine conflict is one of the oldest and persisting conflicts in the world. Now and then, the situation escalates to deadly heights causing deaths and destruction in the region*

**A-2 The Correct Answer is: b) 2, 4, and 5 only.**

**Explanation:** -Israel, country in the **Middle East**, located at the **eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea**. It is bordered by **Lebanon** to the north, by **Syria** to the northeast, by **Jordan** to the east, by the **Red Sea** to the south, by **Egypt** to the southwest, by the **Mediterranean Sea** to the west, and by the **Palestinian territories** – the **West Bank** along the east and the **Gaza Strip** along the southwest.

**A-3 The Correct Answer is: c) It is proposed alternative route for shipping between the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea.**

**Explanation:** -The **Ben Gurion Canal Project** is a **proposed alternative route** for shipping between the **Red Sea** and the **Mediterranean Sea**. The **Suez Canal** is currently the main route between these two bodies of water, but the Ben Gurion Canal would offer an alternative that is shorter and potentially faster.

- The proposed project is to cut a canal through the **Israeli-controlled Negev Desert** from the tip of the **Gulf of Aqaba** – the eastern arm of the **Red Sea** that juts into Israel's southern tip and south-western Jordan – to the Eastern Mediterranean coast. The canal would also potentially provide economic benefits to Israel, as it could become a hub for trade and transportation in the region.

**A-4 The Correct Answer is: b) Only two**

**Explanation:** - Golan Heights: It is a hilly area overlooking the upper **Jordan River valley** on the west.

- It is a **Syrian territory occupied by Israel** since **1967**.
- The area's name is from the biblical city of refuge Golan in Bashan.
- It is bounded by the **Jordan River** and the **Sea of Galilee** on the west, **Mount Hermon** on the north, the seasonal **Wadi Al-Ruqqād River** on the east and the **Yarmūk River** on the south.
- It extends about 71 km from north to south and about 43 km from east to west at its widest point.
- It is roughly boat-shaped and has an area of 1,150 sq.km.





**History:** The area was part of extreme southwestern Syria until 1967, when it came under Israeli military occupation in the closing stages of the 1967 Six-Day War.

- Most of the Syrian Arab inhabitants fled the area during the conflict.
- Syria tried to retake the Golan Heights during the 1973 Middle East war, but the attempt was thwarted.
- Both countries signed an armistice in 1974, and a UN observer force has been in place on the ceasefire line since 1974.
- In December 1981, Israel unilaterally annexed the part of the Golan it held.
- It's considered occupied territory under international law and UN Security Council resolutions.
- There are more than 30 Israeli settlements in the Golan Heights, which are home to an estimated 20,000 people.
- They are considered illegal under international law, which Israel disputes.
- The settlers live alongside some 20,000 Syrians, most of them Druze Arabs who did not flee when the area came under Israeli control.

**Strategic Importance:**

- The Syrian capital, Damascus, can be clearly seen from the top of the Golan Hills.
- It overlooks northern Israel's Galilee region and the Sea of Galilee and dominates the route to Damascus on the Syrian-controlled side.
- Importantly, the Golan Heights shares a border with Jordan and Lebanon.
- The area is also a key source of water for an arid region. Rainwater from the Golan's catchment feeds into the Jordan River.

**Significance:** A deadly strike on a playing field in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights has sharply escalated fears of a new war in the region.

**A-5 The Correct Answer is: c) Both 1 and 2**

**Explanation:** The **state of Palestine** is officially **recognized** by the **United Nations** as a sovereign nation in **Western Asia** claiming the **West Bank** (bordering Israel and Jordan) and **Gaza Strip** (bordering Israel and Egypt)

- The **Gaza Strip** borders the **Mediterranean Sea** to the west, **Egypt** to the south, and **Israel** to the north and east.
- The **West Bank** is **bordered** by **Jordan** to the east, and **Israel** to the north, south, and west. Thus, the **two enclaves of Palestine** do not share any geographical borders.
- **Golan Heights** in the northeastern region of Israel is a **disputed area** between **Israel and Syria** and is **not an enclave claimed by Palestine**.
- **Palestine** borders the **Mediterranean Sea** which opens towards the ocean waters through the **Gulf of Gibraltar**. Thus, it is NOT a landlocked country.

**Significance:** The Israel-Palestine conflict, a longstanding issue, frequently escalates into violence, causing global concern and making it a crucial topic for UPSC aspirants due to its geopolitical significance.

**A-6 The Correct Answer is: b) Only two**

**Explanation:** -The **Gaza Strip** is a self-governing **Palestinian territory** located on the **eastern coast** of the **Mediterranean Sea**. The territory takes its name from Gaza, its main city.

- It forms the **smaller** of the **two Palestinian territories — the other being the West Bank**.
- **Bordering Countries:** It is bordered by **Israel** to the north and east and **Egypt** to the south.
- **Size:** It is a 41km (25-mile) long and 10km-wide territory.
- **Climate:** It has a temperate climate, with mild winters, and dry, hot summer.



- **Population:** It is one of the most densely populated areas in the world. More than 2 million people live in the territory. The population is predominantly Palestinian, with the majority being Sunni Muslims.
- **History:** After Israel declared its statehood in 1948, Egypt controlled the Gaza Strip for nearly two decades
- Israel then gained control of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank after its victory in the 1967 Six-Day War against its Arab neighbours.
- For the next 38 years, Israel controlled the strip and enabled the construction of 21 Jewish settlements.
- In 2005, under international and domestic pressure, Israel withdrew around 9,000 Israeli settlers and its military forces from the Gaza Strip, leaving the enclave to be governed by the internationally recognised Palestinian Authority, which also controlled parts of the occupied West Bank.

**Who controls it now?**

- Hamas, a Palestinian Islamist organisation, currently governs the Gaza Strip.
- It took control in 2007 after it won elections there the year before. Since then, no elections have been held.
- Hamas, unlike the Palestinian Authority, doesn't recognize Israel's right to exist.
- Israel has maintained a land, air and sea blockade on Gaza since 2007.

***Significance:** Israel recently ordered a full siege of the Gaza Strip and vowed to obliterate Hamas after its all-out offensive entered the next phase.*

**A-7 The Correct Answer is: a) Only one**

**Explanation:** - The **Dead Sea** is not located entirely within Israel; The Dead Sea is a **landlocked** salt lake **bordered** by **Jordan** to the east and the **Israeli-occupied West Bank** and **Israel** to the west. It lies in the **Jordan Rift Valley**, and its main tributary is the **Jordan River**.

- It is **primarily fed by the Jordan River**.
- The **Dead Sea** is not the highest lake on Earth. It is actually one of the **Earth's lowest points on land**, lying more than 430 meters (1,411 feet) below sea level.
- The **Dead Sea** is known for its **exceptionally high salt concentration**, making it one of the **saltiest bodies of water in the world**.
- The **Negev Desert** does not surround the Dead Sea; rather, it is situated to the **south of the Dead Sea**.

***Significance:** The Dead Sea's location has also made it a place of refuge; following a massacre by Hamas, Israeli authorities evacuated survivors to a hotel near this body of water, underscoring its role as a geographic landmark amidst the turmoil of war.*

**A-8 The Correct Answer is: a) 1 only**

**Explanation:** -The **Suez Canal** is an **artificial sea-level waterway** running north to south across the Isthmus of Suez in **Egypt**, to connect the **Mediterranean Sea** and the **Red Sea**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- The canal **separates the African continent from Asia**.
- It provides the **shortest maritime route** between Europe and the lands lying around the Indian and western Pacific oceans.
- It is one of the world's most heavily used shipping lanes, carrying over **12% of world trade by volume**.
- The Suez Canal is actually the first canal that directly links the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea. It was opened for navigation in November 1869.
- The 150-year-old canal was controlled by British and French interests in its initial years, but was **nationalised in 1956 by Egypt**. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.



**Significance:** The Ben Gurion Canal Project is a theoretical proposal to cut a canal through Israel's Negev Desert, creating an alternative route to the Suez Canal. Envisioned in the 1960s, it aimed to challenge Egypt's monopoly on the shortest trade route between Europe and Asia.

**A-9 The Correct Answer is: b) 2 only**

**Explanation:** - **Sinai Peninsula:** It is a **triangle-shaped peninsula** located in northeastern **Egypt**.

- It serves as a **land bridge connecting Asia and Africa**. Area: 23,500 square miles (61,000 square km).
- It is the **sovereign territory of Egypt**.
- **Boundaries:** The peninsula is bordered to the north by the **Mediterranean Sea** and to the east by **Israel** and the **Gaza Strip**.
- To the west of the Sinai Peninsula is the **Suez Canal**, across which lies the **African part of Egypt**.
- The Sinai is bordered to the southwest by the **Gulf of Suez** and to the immediate south by the **Red Sea**.
- The **Gulf of Aqaba** borders the **Sinai** in the southeast.
- Egypt shares maritime borders in the Sinai with Jordan and Saudi Arabia.
- **History:** In the late 19th century, Egypt, including the Sinai Peninsula, became part of the British Empire.
- British rule in Egypt would last until 1922, when the country was granted independence.
- The peninsula was occupied by Israeli forces during the Six-Day War of June 1967.
- It was returned to Egypt in 1982 under the terms of the peace treaty concluded between those countries in 1979.
- **Geography:** It is characterized by a diverse landscape, including mountain ranges, deserts, plateaus, and coastal regions.
- **Population:** The Sinai is sparsely populated; about 600,000 people live in the region.
- Today, the Sinai is mostly inhabited by Arab Egyptians and Bedouins.

**Significance:** Hundreds of tonnes of aid from several countries have been waiting in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula for days pending a deal for its safe delivery to Gaza.

**A-10 The Correct Answer is: b) 1 & 3 only**

**Explanation:** **Nord Stream** is a network of **offshore natural gas pipelines** in **Europe** which run **under the Baltic Sea from Russia to Germany**. It comprises two separate projects, **Nord Stream 1 and 2**. Both pipelines each comprise two pipes, **NS1 A and B** as well as **NS2 A and B**, for a total of 4 physical pipes. **Both pipelines land in Lubmin, Germany**.

- Nord Stream 1 (NS1) runs from Vyborg, in northwestern Russia near Finland, and entered service in 2011. It is operated by Nord Stream AG.
- Nord Stream 2 (NS2) runs from Ust-Luga in northwestern Russia near Estonia. The pipeline was built in order to increase gas exports towards Europe, aiming to double annual capacity. The project was completed in 2021, but has not yet entered service.

**Significance:** According to a new study by researchers from the University of Gothenburg, a significant portion of the methane gas released from the ruptured Nord Stream pipelines in the Baltic Sea last September never made it into the atmosphere.

**About Methane:**

- It is the primary component of natural gas and is responsible for approximately a third of the warming we are experiencing today.

**Characteristics of Methane**

- It is a colourless odourless gas, flammable water insoluble gas.



- It is also known as marsh gas or methyl hydride.
- It is easily ignited. The vapours are lighter than air. Under prolonged exposure to fire or intense heat the containers may rupture violently and rocket.
- It is a powerful and short-lived greenhouse gas, with a lifetime of about a decade and Global Warming Potential about 80 times greater than that of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) during the 20 years after it is released into the atmosphere.
- The largest sources of methane are agriculture, fossil fuels, and decomposition of landfill waste.

**Impacts**

- It harms human and ecosystem health.
- Its emissions lead to ground-level ozone pollution which causes approximately a million premature deaths per year globally and reduces crop productivity and harms ecosystems.

[We will explore the Baltic Sea in great detail in Volume Three.]

**A-11 The Correct Answer is: b) Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales**

**Explanation:** - The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland or simply the United Kingdom (UK) is a **sovereign country** in Western Europe. The **capital** and **largest city** is **London**, a **global city** and **financial centre** with a metropolitan area population of over 14 million. It is a **constitutional monarchy** that is made up of **four separate countries**: **England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland**. It is a member of the United Nations, the Commonwealth, NATO, the G8, and formerly the EU. It had the sixth largest economy in the world by nominal GDP in 2019.

- Around 66 million people live in the UK (2018). They can be divided into four big nationalities based on the countries where they live (or where they were born or their ancestry).
- **England** is the biggest country, where most people in the UK live. People who live in England are called English. Their native language is called English, which is spoken by most people in England.
- **Scotland**, north of England, is the second biggest country. People who live there are called Scottish, and a Scottish person may be called a Scottish. Some speak a language other than English: Scottish Gaelic, a Gaelic language. Scottish English, on the other hand, is a version of English.
- **Wales** is to the west of England. Its people are called Welsh and they have their own Celtic language which is also called Welsh. Not everyone in Wales can speak Welsh, but almost everyone can speak English.
- **Northern Ireland** is the smallest country. Unlike the other three countries, it is not on the island of Great Britain: it is part of the island called Ireland. Northern Ireland takes up about a sixth of Ireland (with the Republic of Ireland taking up the remainder). People who live in Northern Ireland are either Irish, British, or Northern Irish. The people who live here usually speak English.

**Significance:** Keir Starmer confirmed as Britain's new prime minister after Labour Party's decisive win.

- Similar to India, UK also follows a Parliamentary system of democracy. However, Parliament is supreme in UK whereas in India Parliamentary sovereignty is subject to Constitutional Supremacy.



**A-12 The Correct Answer is: b) 1**

**Explanation:** - The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, commonly known as the **United Kingdom (UK) or Britain**, is a country in Europe, off the north-western coast of the continental mainland. It comprises **England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland**. The United Kingdom includes the island of Great Britain, the north-eastern part of the **island of Ireland**, and many smaller islands within the British Isles. **Northern Ireland shares a land border with the Republic of Ireland**; otherwise, the United Kingdom is surrounded by the **Atlantic Ocean, the North Sea, the English Channel, the Celtic Sea and the Irish Sea**.

**A-13 The Correct Answer is: d) United Kingdom**

**Explanation:** - The United Kingdom hosted a two-day **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Summit**, bringing together political leaders and tech experts to discuss both the promise and potential perils of this rapidly advancing technology.

- November 1, 2023, 28 countries (including India) and the European Union, who participated in the summit, agreed to the **“Bletchley Declaration”**, named after the venue of the summit.

**About the Bletchley Declaration:**

- The declaration offers a comprehensive snapshot of the global understanding of artificial intelligence’s promises and risks.
- The document emphasizes the necessity of aligning AI systems with human intent and urges a deeper exploration of AI’s full capabilities.
- Furthermore, it acknowledges the potential for severe, even catastrophic, harm caused by AI, whether intentional or unintentional.
- It highlights the importance of safeguarding human rights, transparency, explainability, fairness, accountability, regulation, safety, human oversight, ethics, bias mitigation, privacy, and data protection.
- The document reflects the complex negotiations between nations with conflicting interests and legal systems, including the United States, the United Kingdom, the European Union, and China.

**A-14 The Correct Answer is: a) Only two**

**Explanation:** - **Ukraine** is a country in **Eastern Europe**. It is the **second-largest European country** after Russia

- Ukraine is bordered by **Russia** to the east and northeast, **Belarus** to the northwest, **Poland** and **Slovakia** to the west, **Hungary, Romania, and Moldova** to the southwest, and the **Black Sea** and **Sea of Azov** to the south and southeast, respectively.
- The country's landscape consists mostly of **fertile steppes (plains with few trees)** and plateaus, crossed by rivers such as the **Dnieper (Dnipro)**, **Seversky Donets**, **Dniester** and the **Southern Bug** as they flow south into the **Black Sea** and the smaller **Sea of Azov**.
- Ukraine's only mountains are the **Carpathian Mountains** in the west, of which the highest is Hoverla at 2,061 metres (6,762 ft), and the Crimean Mountains, in the extreme south along the coast
- **Kyiv** is the nation's capital and largest city, followed by **Kharkiv, Dnipro and Odesa**

**Significance:** PM Modi met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv, marking a significant diplomatic milestone amidst the Russia-Ukraine war. It was the first-ever visit to Ukraine by an Indian prime minister after Ukraine became independent in 1991.

- PM Modi's visit to Kyiv marks a significant diplomatic shift for India, as it re-engages with Ukraine and asserts itself in the global geopolitical landscape amid the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war. This visit highlights three key developments:





### **India's Role in European Peace Efforts**

- Modi's engagement with Ukrainian President demonstrates India's commitment to understanding Ukraine's concerns and contributing to global peace efforts.
- This positions India as a more active participant in resolving the conflict, especially in the Global South.

### **Diplomatic and Strategic Space**

- Modi's visit signals India's intention to play a more proactive role in shaping global power dynamics, particularly in Europe.
- This is contrasted with China's growing influence in the region and the U.S.'s evolving stance on its involvement in European security.
  - Ukraine is not only about renewed contest between Russia and the West but also about the role of Delhi and Beijing in Europe.

### **Reviving India-Ukraine Relations**

- Modi's visit also seeks to restore and enhance India's ties with Ukraine, which had been neglected post-Soviet Union.
- The commitment to a strategic partnership, along with economic, defense, and cultural cooperation, represents a significant renewal of the relationship between the two nations.

### **A-15 The Correct Answer is: a) Only one**

**Explanation:** -Dnieper River: **It is the fourth-longest river in Europe** (after the Volga, the Danube, and the Ural).

- In **Russian**, the river's name is **Dnepr**. In **Ukrainian**, it is **Dnipro**, and in **Belarusian**, it is **Dnyapro**.
- Located in Eastern Europe, the Dnieper River and its many tributaries drain much of Belarus and Ukraine.
- Historically, the river was an important barrier dividing Ukraine into right and left banks.
- **Course:** It **originates in Russia**, in the **low Valdai Hills west of Moscow**.
- It runs a total length of 1,368 miles through western **Russia**, **Belarus**, and **Ukraine** before **emptying into the Black Sea**.
- Approximately 300 miles of the waterway is located in Russia, 430 miles are in Belarus, and 680 miles are within Ukraine.
- It passes through numerous urban centers such as the **Russian cities of Smolensk and Dorogobuzh**, as well as **Mogilev in Belarus and Kiev, Cherkasy, Dnipro, and Zaporizhia in Ukraine**.
- Tributaries: It has as many as 32,000 tributaries, including the **Sozh, Desna, Trubizh, Bilozerka, Drut, Berezina, and Prypiat Rivers**.

### **A-16 The Correct Answer is: a) Sea of Azov**

**Explanation:** The **Sea of Azov** is the **world's shallowest sea**. The Sea of Azov is **bordered by Ukraine** to the north, **Russia** to the east, the **Crimean Peninsula** to the west, and it connects to the **Black Sea** to the south through the **Kerch Strait**.

### **A-17 The Correct Answer is: a) 1 only**

**Explanation:** -According to experts, the population of **flamingos on Lake Natron** is steadily declining as fewer birds return each year due to extreme weather and encroachment.

- It is a **salt lake** located on the border between **Tanzania and Kenya**, part of the eastern branch of the **Great Rift Valley**.
- It is a **Ramsar site** and has a unique composition of **warm waters and salt, caustic soda, and magnesite deposits that provide ideal conditions for flamingos to thrive**.
- Primarily, the lake is **fed by the Ewaso Ng'iro River**, which originates from the central region of **Kenya**.
- One of the most striking features of this Lake is its **striking red coloration**. The primary reason for its hue lies in its **extreme alkalinity**.
- **Threats:** Several factors, including **agriculture, pollution, and climate change**, are threatening the beauty of this unique ecosystem.



**Key facts about Great Rift Valley**

- It is one of the most extensive rifts on Earth's surface that runs along part of **East Africa**. It is part of a larger feature called the **East African Rift System (EARS)**.
- It runs from Jordan in southwestern Asia to the coast of the Indian Ocean in central Mozambique.
- It runs across many countries: Eritrea, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Malawi, Zambia, and Mozambique.

**A-18 The Correct Answer is: c) 1, 2 and 3**

**Explanation:** -The **South China Sea** is one of the **busiest sea-route** in the world.

- The South China Sea **dispute** is an overlapping territorial dispute involving countries like **Vietnam, Taiwan, China, Malaysia, Brunei and the Philippines**.
- In this decade-long dispute, China claims its sovereignty over more than 80 percent of the territory while Vietnam claims over the **Paracel Islands and the Spratly Islands**.
- The **Philippines** affirms its sovereignty over **Spratly archipelago** and the **Scarborough Shoal**, while the countries like **Brunei and Malaysia** have asserted their ownership over the southern region of the ocean and some of **Spratly Islands**.

**Significance:** *India Shows concern on unilateral actions to change status quo in South China Sea.*

**A-19 The Correct Answer is: c) 3-4-1-2**

**Explanation:** -South China Sea Dispute: It is a dispute over territory and sovereignty over ocean areas, and the **Paracels** and the **Spratlys** – two island chains claimed in whole or in part by a number of countries. Alongside the fully-fledged islands, there are dozens of rocky outcrops, atolls, sandbanks, and reefs, such as the **Scarborough Shoal**.

**A-20 The Correct Answer is: (d) Maritime disputes in the South China Sea**

**Explanation:** The **Nine-dash line** is a vaguely defined **demarcation line used by China and Taiwan** for their claims of a major part of the **South China Sea**.

**A-21 The Correct Answer is: (d) 1:Myanmar, 2:Vietnam, 3:Laos, 4:Thailand, 5:Cambodia**

**A-22 The Correct Answer is: d) Indonesia**

**Explanation:** - The **island of New Guinea** lies in the region of the **Pacific Ocean** traditionally called **Melanesia**. It is the **world's second-largest island**, with **Greenland being the largest**. Historically, the western part of the island was a Dutch colony, while the eastern half was a German colony until World War I, when it came under Australian control. Papua New Guinea gained independence on 16 September 1975.

- The **western half** of the island was annexed by **Indonesia** in 1969, and is usually referred to as **Papua or West Papua** (the names of the two provinces which constitute that half of New Guinea). You may also have heard the two regions called Irian Jaya and West Irian Jaya.

**Significance:** *India sends humanitarian aid to Papua New Guinea after a devastating landslide*

**A-23 The Correct Answer is: d) Papua New Guinea**

**Explanation:** **Bougainville** Island is the main island of the **Autonomous Region of Bougainville of Papua New Guinea**.





**A-24 The Correct Answer is: a) True**

**Explanation:** - Papua New Guinea covers a land area of approximately 453,000 square kilometres (175,000 square miles), which is getting on for twice the size of Guinea, the next-largest of the four countries at around 246,000 square kilometres (95,000 square miles). **Guinea-Bissau** and **Equatorial Guinea** are both about 28,000 square kilometres (11,000 square miles).

- However, it shouldn't be that surprising that Papua New Guinea is bigger than countries on the much larger African continent. **New Guinea is the second-largest island in the world (behind Greenland)** and Papua New Guinea occupies approximately half of it, in addition to numerous surrounding islands.

**A-25 The Correct Answer is: c) Pantanal (South America)**

**Explanation:** - The **world's largest wetland** system is option (c) **Pantanal**, which is located mostly in **Brazil**, but also extends into **Bolivia** and **Paraguay**.

Option (a) **Camargue** is a wetland area in southern **France**, but it is not the largest in the world.

Option (b) **Okavango** is a delta in **Botswana**, which is also a large wetland area, but it is not the largest in the world.

Option (d) **Everglades** is a wetland area in the **United States**, but it is not as large as the **Pantanal wetland** in **South America**.

**Note:** The **Amazon River basin**, **Pantanal**, the **Sundarbans of India**, and **West Siberian Plain** are included in the largest wetlands.

Another type of wetland that is found in the forest of the Gulf Coast states in the USA is the bay gall. Wetlands are one of the assets of nature.

**Significance:** *South America's Pantanal wetlands is grappling with devastating wildfires.*

**A-26 The Correct Answer is: b) Brazil, Bolivia, and Paraguay.**

**Explanation:** - Pantanal Wetland is a natural region encompassing the **world's largest tropical wetland** area and the **world's largest flooded grasslands**.

- **Location:** It is located mostly within **Brazil**, but it extends into portions of **Bolivia** and **Paraguay**.
- **Vegetation:** The vegetation of the Pantanal often referred to as the "**Pantanal complex**" is a mixture of plant communities— moist tropical Amazonian rainforest plants, semiarid woodland plants, Brazilian Cerrado savanna plants and plants of the Chaco savannas of Bolivia and Paraguay.
- **Keystone Species:** The **apple snail** is a **keystone** species in Pantanal's ecosystem.
- **Wildlife:** Pantanal has the **largest concentration** of **crocodiles** in the world, with approximately 10 million caimans. The **Pantanal** is also **home** to the **biggest parrot** on the planet, the **hyacinth macaw**.
- **Significance:** In 2000, part of this ecoregion, the '**Pantanal Conservation Area**' representing **1.3% of the Brazilian Pantanal** was inscribed on **UNESCO's World Heritage List**.
  - In the same year, a part of Pantanal Wetland was named as **UNESCO Biosphere Reserve**.

**A-27 The Correct Answer is: b) Lake Titicaca**

**Explanation:** Titicaca: It is the **highest navigable body** of water in the world.

- It is **located** at 3,810 metres above sea level in the **Andes Mountains** of South America.
- It lies on the **border** between **Peru** to the west and **Bolivia** to the east.
- Lake Titicaca is the **largest freshwater lake** in **South America**.
- It covers some 8,300 square km and extends in a northwest-to-southeast direction for a distance of 190 km. It is 50 miles (80 km) across at its widest point.



- A narrow **strait, Tiquina**, separates the lake into two bodies of water.
- The lake averages between 140 and 180 metres in depth, but the bottom tilts sharply toward the Bolivian shore.
- The lake is 284 m deep at its deepest point, located in the northeastern section of the lake.
- More than 25 rivers empty their waters into Titicaca; the largest, the Ramis, drains about two-fifths of the entire Titicaca Basin.
- Forty-one islands rise from Titicaca's waters, the largest of which, Titicaca Island, can be seen just off the tip of the Copacabana Peninsula in Bolivia.
- Lake Titicaca is a designated **Ramsar Site** of International Importance.

**Significance:** *Titicaca in Crisis- Climate Change Is Drying Up the Biggest Lake in the Andes, Persistent drought has caused havoc for the Indigenous peoples who live on floating islands and depend on rains that have stopped falling.*

#### A-28 The Correct Answer is: c) Only three

**Explanation:** -International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) is a 7,200-kilometer Multimode Transit Route linking the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea via Iran and onward to northern Europe via St. Petersburg in Russia.

- It **connects** ship, rail, and road routes for moving cargo between **India, Iran, Azerbaijan, Russia, Central Asia, and Europe**.
- It was launched on **12th September 2000 in St. Petersburg**, by a trilateral agreement signed by **Iran, Russia and India** at the **Euro-Asian Conference on Transport in 2000** for promoting transportation cooperation among the Member States.
- The main purpose of the corridor was to **reduce carriage costs and transit time between India and Russia**. The transit time is expected to reduce to almost half, once the corridor becomes fully functional.
- Since then, INSTC membership has expanded to include 10 more countries (total 13)-**Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, Syria, Belarus, and Oman**.
- Route: The multimodal route begins in Mumbai, India and goes to Bandar Abbas and Bandar-e-Anzali in Iran, then crosses the Caspian Sea to reach Astrakhan, Moscow, and St. Petersburg in Russia.

#### What is the Significance of INSTC for India?

- INSTC allows India to bypass chokepoints like the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea (Suez Canal route), making its trade more secure.
- The Israel-Hamas conflict and the Houthi attacks on ships in the southern Red Sea have highlighted the significance of having alternative trade routes.
- Through this India can bypass Pakistan and unstable Afghanistan to reach Central Asia.
- It connects India to markets in Russia, the Caucasus, and Eastern Europe, facilitating trade, energy cooperation, defense, counterterrorism, and cultural exchanges with Central Asian Republics through initiatives like "Connect Central Asia".

**Significance:** *Russia has sent two trains laden with coal to India via the eastern branch of International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) for the first time, as per reports.*

- *Trains will bring coal to Bandar Abbas Port of Iran*



**A-29 The Correct Answer is: d) Between Greenland and Canada**

**Explanation:** -About the newly discovered Microcontinent: The discovery was made **around the Davis Strait**, a large stretch of water located between **Canada's Baffin Island** and **Greenland**.

- The strait was formed millions of years ago when the tectonic plates between the two islands shifted, reconfiguring the Earth's crust.
- This resulted in the formation of a thick continental crust in the ocean, which has now been declared a newly discovered primitive microcontinent.
- It has been named the **Davis Strait proto-microcontinent** since it **formed owing to the tectonic evolution of the strait in the region**.
- The **microcontinent is 19–24 km thick thinned continental crust** and is surrounded by two narrow bands of thin (15–17 km) continental crust.
- **About Davis Strait:** Also known as the **northern arm of the Atlantic Ocean**, the Davis Strait is situated north of the **Labrador Sea amidst** southwestern Greenland and southeastern **Baffin Island in Nunavut, Canada**.
- It separates the depths of northern **Baffin Bay** from the **southern Labrador Sea** and forms an important part of the **Northwest passage route** going through the Canadian Arctic Archipelago and connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.
- **Baffin Bay** is situated between **Baffin Island** and **Greenland's west coast**.
- Defined as a **marginal sea** of the **Arctic Ocean**, it is also considered a small sea of the North Atlantic.
- It is not navigable during the winter months due to the thick ice cover, floating icebergs and heavy fog.
- It triggered **plate tectonic movements** in the **Labrador Sea** and the **Baffin Bay, leading to the formation of the Strait**.

**Significance:** *A microcontinent has been recently discovered in the Davis Strait, between Canada and Greenland.*

**A-30 The Correct Answer is: a) Hudson Bay**

**Explanation:** Hudson Bay, sometimes called **Hudson's Bay** (usually historically), is a **large body of saltwater in northeastern Canada**.

- It is an **inland marginal sea** of the Arctic Ocean.
- **Hudson Bay** encompasses about 1,230,000 km<sup>2</sup> (470,000 sq mi), making it the **second-largest** water body using the term "bay" in the world (after the Bay of Bengal).
- On the east it is connected with the Atlantic Ocean by Hudson Strait; on the north, with the Arctic Ocean by Foxe Basin (which is not considered part of the bay), and Fury and Hecla Strait.

**A-31 The Correct Answer is: c) Canada**

**Explanation:** The **Mackenzie River system** is the **second largest** river system on the **North American continent, after only the Mississippi-Missouri River system**.

- It is also **Canada's largest and longest river basin** and is the **10th largest river basin in the world**.
- The Mackenzie River system flows along a course of 4,241 kilometers from its **headwaters** in the **Finlay River** to its drainage into the **Beaufort Sea** in the **Arctic Ocean**.
- The Mackenzie and its tributaries together drain an area of about 1.8 million sq.km, which represents about 20% of Canada's total land area.
- Its lake-covered triangular delta measures more than 120 miles (190 km) from north to south and is about 50 miles (80 km) wide along the Arctic shore.
- The Peace, Athabasca, and Liard Rivers are some of the most important tributaries of the Mackenzie.
- A number of lakes, like the **Lake Athabasca, Great Slave Lake, and Great Bear Lake**, also form notable parts of the Mackenzie River system.



**Significance:** The Mackenzie River is currently experiencing record-low water levels due to extreme heat and minimal precipitation. These conditions have caused significant evaporation, severely impacting local communities that depend on the river for transportation and fishing.

**A-32 The Correct Answer is: d) Nigeria**

**Explanation:** - It is a country located on the **western coast of Africa**. It is often called the "**Giant of Africa**."

- Boundaries: It is **bordered** to the north by **Niger**, to the east by **Chad** and **Cameroon**, to the south by the **Gulf of Guinea** of the **Atlantic Ocean**, and to the west by **Benin**.
- It achieved **independence from Britain** in 1960.
- It covers an area of around 9.24 lakh square kilometres.
- It is also **Africa's most populous country**.
- Capital: Abuja, Money: Naira
- Language: English is Nigeria's official language, although many local languages such as Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo, and Ijaw are also spoken.
- Nigeria has a diverse geography, with climates ranging from arid to humid equatorial.
- Drainage:
  - The major drainage areas in Nigeria are the **Niger-Benue basin**, the **Lake Chad basin**, and the **Gulf of Guinea basin**.
  - The **Niger River**, for which the country is named, and the **Benue**, its largest tributary, are the principal rivers.
- Major Mountain Range: **Cameroonian Highlands**
- The country has abundant natural resources, notably large deposits of **petroleum** and **natural gas**.

**Significance:** A two-story school collapsed recently in north-central Nigeria, killing 22 students and sending rescuers on a frantic search for more than 100 people trapped in the rubble.

**A-33 The Correct Answer is: c) All three**

**Explanation:** - **Lake Chad** is situated in **Central Africa** and is **shared by four countries: Nigeria, Chad, Niger, and Cameroon**. Its location makes it a critical water resource for the region.

- Lake Chad has experienced significant **shrinkage due to** a combination of **climate change, overuse of water for irrigation, and reduced rainfall**. It has diminished from approximately 25,000 square kilometers in the 1960s to less than 2,000 square kilometers in some years.
  - Causes include: Climate Change: Reduced rainfall and increased temperatures.
  - Overuse: Unsustainable irrigation practices.
  - Desertification: Expansion of the Sahara Desert.
- **Rivers Feeding It:** The primary inflow comes from the **Chari River** and its tributary, the **Logone River**, which contribute about **90% of the water**.
- Lake Chad is primarily a **freshwater lake**, though its salinity can vary slightly due to evaporation and inflows. It is an essential source of freshwater for millions of people and livestock in the surrounding countries.



**A-34 The Correct Answer is: c) Southwestern Africa**

**Explanation:** -Namaqualand: It is a **desert** region of **southwestern Africa**.

- From north to south, it **stretches** from the **Karas region** of **Namibia** to the **Northern Cape province** of **South Africa**.
- From west to east, it stretches from the **Namib Desert** to the **Kalahari**.
- It covers an area of 400,000 square kilometres.
- The Namibian section, **north** of the **Orange River**, is sometimes called **Great Namaqualand**.
- The South African section, **south** of the **Orange River**, is sometimes called **Little Namaqualand**.
- It is **very dry**. For a large part of the year **succulents** are almost the only plants that can be seen on the vast plains.
- **Succulents** can hold water for long periods and can survive in droughts.
- **Rain falls** mostly in the **winter**. If there is enough rain, wildflowers cover Namaqualand for a few weeks during springtime.
- The area was traditionally inhabited by the **Nama people** before the German occupation of the region in the 19th century.
- There are large deposits of copper in Namaqualand. The Nama mined them for hundreds of years.
- In the early 1900s diamonds were discovered in several places in Namaqualand, including Sperrgebiet in Namibia and the Richtersveld in South Africa.

**Significance:** *Scientists recently discovered the world's oldest inhabited termite mounds along the Buffels River in Namaqualand, dating back 34,000 years.*

**A-35 The Correct Answer is: d) All of the above**

**Explanation:** -The **Namib** is a **coastal desert** in **Southern Africa**. The Namib Desert is indeed one of the **oldest deserts**, dating back millions of years.

- It spans **Namibia, Angola** to the north, and a small part of **South Africa** to the south.
- **Sossusvlei** in Namibia is famous for having some of the **world's tallest sand dunes**, reaching heights of up to 300-400 meters.
- The **Namib Desert** runs along the **Atlantic Ocean**, forming the **western boundary**. To the east lies the **Kalahari Desert**, separated by a **transitional zone**.
- The Namib's aridity is caused by the descent of **dry air of the Hadley cell**, cooled by the **cold Benguela Current** along the coast.
- The **Namib Sand Sea became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2013**, the only coastal desert in the world with extensive dune fields **influenced by fog**.
- The desert is home to unique species adapted to arid conditions, such as
  - **Welwitschia mirabilis**: A long-living plant that can survive for over 1,000 years.
  - **Oryx (gemsbok), springbok, and ostriches** are common large animals.
  - **The Namib Desert beetle** collects water from morning fog on its back.

**[We will explore the Namib Desert and Kalahari Desert in great detail in Volume -4]**

**A-36 The Correct Answer is: d) All of the above**

**Explanation:** Rwanda is a **landlocked** country in the **Great Rift Valley**, where the **African Great Lakes region** and **East Africa** converge. **Its capital city is Kigali**.

- Located a few degrees south of the Equator, Rwanda is **bordered** by **Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo**.
- It is highly elevated, giving it the soubriquet "**land of thousand hills**".
- **Hutu and Tutsi** are two main **ethninc groups of Rwanda** and the ethnic tensions between them culminated with genocide of nearly 8 lakh people in 1994





**Significance:** Britain has scheduled its first Rwanda Deportation flight of people entering UK without authorisation this month.

**A-37 The Correct Answer is: d) 3 and 4 only**

**A-38 The Correct Answer is: b) Lake Victoria**

**Explanation:** Lake Victoria is one of the **African Great Lakes**. Lake Victoria is **Africa's largest lake** by area, the **world's largest tropical lake**, and the **world's second-largest fresh water lake** by surface area **after Lake Superior** in **North America**. In terms of **volume**.

- The lake's area is divided among three countries: **Kenya** occupies 6% (4,100 km<sup>2</sup> (1,600 sq mi)), **Uganda** 45% (31,000 km<sup>2</sup> (12,000 sq mi)), and **Tanzania** 49% (33,700 km<sup>2</sup> (13,000 sq mi)).
- Lake Victoria, the **largest tropical lake in the world**, is home to more than 200 species of fish, the crocodile, and the hippopotamus. It was named for Queen Victoria of the United Kingdom by its first European visitor, John Hanning Speke.

**A-39 The Correct Answer is: b) 1, 2, 4, and 5 only**

**Explanation:** The **Rhine River** is the **second-longest** river in **Central** and **Western Europe** after the **Danube** and **originates** in the **Swiss Alps** (in **Switzerland**).

- The Rhine river is called by different names depending on the country it flows through.
- It is called **Rhein** in **Germany**; **Rhine** in **France** and **Rijn** in the **Netherlands**.
- The Rhine flows through six countries -**Switzerland**, Principality of **Liechtenstein**, **Austria**, **Germany**, **France** and the **Netherlands** before flowing into the **North Sea** at Rotterdam.
- The Rhine River flows through **Switzerland**, forms part of the border between **France** and **Germany**, and continues through **Germany** and the **Netherlands** before reaching the **North Sea**.

**Significance:** Parts of the Rhine River in southern Germany were closed to cargo shipping recently after heavy rains raised water levels.

**B-40 The Correct Answer is: b) 1, 2, and 3 only**

**Explanation:** The **Rhine River** **originates** in the **Swiss Alps**, specifically from **Lake Toma** in **Switzerland**.

- It forms part of the border between **Germany** and **France**.
- The river **flows northward** and **empties** into the **North Sea**.
- While the Rhine is a major river in **Europe**, the **longest river** is the **Volga**.

**A-41 The Correct Answer is: b) Only two**

**Explanation:** -**Mercosur** (MERCOSUR for its Spanish initials) or the **Southern Common Market** is an **economic** and **political** bloc of **Latin America**.

- It was **created** in **1991** by signing the **Treaty of Asunción**, an accord calling for the **"free movement of goods, services, and factors of production between countries."**
- **Members:** It **originally** comprised **Argentina**, **Brazil**, **Paraguay**, and **Uruguay** as its members. **Bolivia** and **Venezuela** joined it later. (**Venezuela** has been **suspended** since December 1, 2016).
- MERCOSUR aims to promote **economic integration**, **free trade**, and the **movement** of **goods, services, and people** among member countries.



- Headquarters: Montevideo, Uruguay.
- Governance: The bloc's highest decision-making body, the Common Market Council, provides a high-level forum for coordinating foreign and economic policy.
- **India and MERCOSUR** signed the **Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)** in **2004**, which allowed New Delhi to forge closer economic ties with one of the world's largest trade blocs.

**Significance:** Recently, Bolivia became a full-time member of MERCOSUR groupings to increase trade with member countries.

**A-42 The Correct Answer is: a) Bangladesh**

**Explanation:** - The **Port of Mongla** is located in the **Bagerhat District** of **Bangladesh**. It lies 62 km north of the Bay of Bengal coastline.

- It is **situated** at the **confluence** of the **Pasur River** and the **Mongla River**.
- The Port is **surrounded** and protected by the **Sundarban mangrove forest**.
- **Mongla** is the **second largest seaport** in **Bangladesh** after **Chittagong**.

**Significance:** India is looking to operate the Mongla Port in Bangladesh and build a new terminal, aiming to counterbalance China's strategic presence in the region.

- **Significance for India:** Provides **strategic access** to India's northeastern states (e.g., Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya).
- Reduces distance and transportation costs for goods to and from these regions.
- **India Ports Global Limited (IPGL)** has expressed interest in operating Mongla Port, which would be its third international port operation after **Chabahar in Iran** and **Sittwe in Myanmar**.
- **Expansion project:** India and Bangladesh signed a MoU on the use of Chattogram and Mongla ports in 2015.
  - The MoU envisages the transit of goods from Mongla port to the **northeastern states** of India through **waterways, roads and railways**.

**A-43 The Correct Answer is: a) Only 2 and 3**

**Explanation:** - **Bangladesh** shares a **long border** with **India** (over 4,000 km) and a **shorter** one with **Myanmar** (approximately 271 km). Bangladesh does not share borders with Bhutan or Nepal but is close to both.



**B-1 The Correct Answer is: c) 1, 3, 4 & 5 only**

**Explanation:** The latitude of the Earth's equator is, by definition, 0° (zero degrees) of arc. The equator is one of the five notable circles of latitude on Earth; the other four are both polar circles (the Arctic Circle and the Antarctic Circle) and both tropical circles (the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn). The equator is the only line of latitude which is also a great circle—that is, one whose plane passes through the centre of the globe. The Earth is widest at its Equator. The distance around the Earth at the Equator, its circumference, is 40,075 kilometres (24,901 miles).

Equator passes through 13 countries, 3 continents and 3 water bodies.

South America	1. Ecuador, 2. Colombia, 3. Brazil
Africa	4. Gabon, 5. Congo, 6. Democratic Republic of Congo, 7. Uganda, 8. Kenya, 9. Sao Tome and Principe, 10. Somalia.
Asia	11. Maldives, 12. Indonesia, 13. Kiribati (Oceania)
Water Bodies	Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean.

**B-2 The Correct Answer is: d) 1 & 3 only**

**Explanation:** Somalia is NOT an island nation, although it is cut by Equator., Seychelles in not cut by Equator.

**B-3 The Correct Answer is: c) Iran**

**Explanation:** The Tropic of Cancer passes is 23.5 degrees latitude north of the Equator. The location of Tropic of Cancer remains flexible. It shifts southwards at an approximate rate of half an arcsecond of latitude per year. The current position approx. is at 23°26'11.7" north of the Equator."

There are 17 countries, 3 continents and 6 water bodies through which the Tropic of Cancer passes.

North America	Bahamas (Archipelago), Mexico
Africa	Egypt, Libya, Niger, Algeria, Mali, Western Sahara, Mauritania
Asia	Taiwan, China, Myanmar, Bangladesh, India, Oman, United Arab, Emirates, Saudi Arabia
Water Bodies	Indian Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Taiwan Strait, Red Sea, Gulf of Mexico

**B-4 The Correct Answer is: b) Yemen**

**Explanation:** From west to east the Tropic of Cancer runs through Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Oman. Yemen lies just south of the Tropic of Cancer.



**B-5 The Correct Answer is: d) All of the above**

**Explanation:** The 23.5 degrees south latitude in the Southern Hemisphere is known as Tropic of Capricorn. There are 10 countries, 3 continents and 3 water bodies through which the Tropic of Capricorn passes.

South America	Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay
Africa	Namibia, Botswana, South Africa, Mozambique, Madagascar
Australia	Australia
Water Bodies	Indian Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean

**B-6 The Correct Answer is: b) Brazil**

**B-7 The Correct Answer is: a) 1 & 2 only**

**Explanation:** A prime meridian is the meridian (a line of longitude) in a geographic coordinate system at which longitude is defined to be 0°. Together, a prime meridian and its anti-meridian (the 180th meridian in a 360°-system) form a great circle. This great circle divides a spheroid into two hemispheres. If one uses directions of East and West from a defined prime meridian, then they can be called the Eastern Hemisphere and the Western Hemisphere respectively.

There are 8 countries, 3 continents and 6 water bodies through which the Prime Meridian passes.

Europe	United Kingdom, France, Spain
Africa	Algeria, Mali, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo
Antarctica	Antarctica
Water Bodies	Arctic Ocean, Norwegian Sea, Greenland Sea, Mediterranean Sea, Atlantic Ocean, Southern Ocean

**B-8 The Correct Answer is: a) 1 only**

**Explanation:** 1. The Prime Meridian cuts the Mediterranean Sea.  
2. Tropic of Cancer doesn't cut through the Persian Gulf. It cuts through Red Sea.

**B-9 The Correct Answer is: b) 3 & 4 only**

**Explanation:** The Arctic Circle is one of the five major circles of latitude that mark maps of the Earth. It marks the northernmost point at which the centre of the noon sun is just visible on the December solstice and the southernmost point at which the centre of the midnight sun is just visible on the June solstice.

The land within the Arctic Circle is divided among eight countries: Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia, the United States (Alaska), Canada (Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut), Denmark (Greenland), and Iceland (where it passes through the small offshore island of Grimsey).

*The Arctic Council is a high-level intergovernmental forum that addresses issues faced by the Arctic governments and the indigenous people of the Arctic. The eight countries with sovereignty over the lands within the Arctic Circle constitute the members of the council: Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and the United States. Outside these, there are some observer states.*



**B-10 The Correct Answer is: b) Russia**

**Explanation:** Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia are too far south. While Russia connects to Finland by land across the Arctic Circle, there are still some areas of water along the Arctic Circle, since there are some bodies of water inside Russia that connect to the rest of the oceans. One of these is the White Sea.

**B-11 The Correct Answer is: a) Yes**

**Explanation:** Most of Greenland is north of the Arctic Circle. The exact percentage may be hard to tell, and looking at a map may be inaccurate due to map distortion, since Greenland is so far north. However, using a different map projection does not change the shape or size of the actual land in Greenland.

**B-12 The Correct Answer is: d) All of the above**

**Explanation:** The International Date Line is an imaginary line of longitude on the Earth's surface located at about 180 degrees east (or west) of the Greenwich Meridian and marks the divide where the date changes by one day. It makes some deviations from the 180-degree meridian to avoid dividing countries in two, especially in the Polynesia region.

The time difference between either side of the International Date Line is not always exactly 24 hours because of local time zone variations. If you cross the date line moving east, you subtract a day, whereas if you are moving west you add a day.

**B-13 The Correct Answer is: b) Bering Strait**

**Explanation:** The Bering Strait connects the water north of it (Chukchi Sea and Arctic Ocean) with the water south of it (Bering Sea and Pacific Ocean). The Bering Sea and Bering Strait are named after an explorer named Vitus Bering who explored Russian land and waters surrounding Russia.

**B-14 The Correct Answer is: c) Africa - North America - South America – Europe**

**Explanation:** A continent is one of several very large landmasses. Generally identified by convention rather than any strict criteria, up to seven regions are commonly regarded as continents. Ordered from largest in area to smallest, these seven regions are: Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe, and Australia.

**B-15 The Correct Answer is: b) 1, 3 & 5 only**

**Explanation:** A landlocked country is a country which has no connection to a sea or ocean. Countries like Georgia and Ukraine are not landlocked because they have coastlines on the Black Sea. There are 17 landlocked countries in Europe: Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Kosovo, Czech Republic, Hungary, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Moldova, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Switzerland and Vatican City. Liechtenstein is unique in Europe because it is doubly-landlocked meaning it is both landlocked and surrounded by countries which are also landlocked, a situation it only shares with Uzbekistan which is the second country in the world surrounded only by landlocked countries (Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Kirgizstan, Tajikistan and Afghanistan).



**B-16 The Correct Answer is: c) 1, 3, 4 & 5 only**

**Explanation:** There are 16 landlocked countries in Africa: Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, South Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe. Chad is the largest of Africa's 16 landlocked countries.

**B-17 The Correct Answer is: a) Bolivia and Paraguay**

**Explanation:** South America is the fourth largest continent in the world and has twelve sovereign countries and two non-sovereign areas. Of these countries in South America there are two countries that are landlocked: Bolivia and Paraguay. Bolivia is the 28th largest country in the world and is the largest landlocked country in South America. Paraguay is the 60th largest country in the world.

**B-18 The Correct Answer is: c) 1, 3 & 4 only**

**Explanation:** India lies in the Northern and Eastern hemisphere. India is the seventh largest country after Russia, Canada, USA, China, Brazil and Australia respectively by area. Covering an area of 3.28 million square kilometers. India covers 2.4 % of the total geographical area of the world. The mainland stretches from Latitude 8°4' North to 37°6' North and from Longitude 68°7' East to 97°25' East. The country is of a vast size and measures about 3,214 kilometers from North to South and about 2,933 kilometers from West to East. Coastline: 7,516.6 km encompassing the mainland, Lakshadweep Islands, and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

**B-19 The Correct Answer is: c) Indira Point**

**Explanation:** India lies in the Northern and Eastern hemisphere. India is the seventh largest country after Russia, Canada, USA, China, Brazil and Australia respectively by area. Covering an area of 3.28 million square kilometers. India covers 2.4 % of the total geographical area of the world. The mainland stretches from Latitude 8°4' North to 37°6' North and from Longitude 68°7' East to 97°25' East. The country is of a vast size and measures about 3,214 kilometers from North to South and about 2,933 kilometers from West to East. Coastline: 7,516.6 km encompassing the mainland, Lakshadweep Islands, and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

The four extreme points of India are

- **Southernmost Point** - Indira Point (Great Nicobar) is a village in the Nicobar district of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India. It is the location of the southernmost point of the India's territory. The southernmost point of Indian Mainland is Kanyakumari. Kanyakumari is also known as Cape Comorin and is located in the state of Tamil Nadu.
- **Northernmost Point** - At Indira Col near Siachen glacier - Union Territory of Ladakh (erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir)
- **Westernmost Point** - Guhar moti or Guhar mota (in the Kutch region of Gujarat).
- **Easternmost point** - Kibithu (Arunachal Pradesh).

**B-20 The Correct Answer is: d) Arunachal Pradesh and Gujarat**

**Explanation:** The easternmost state is Arunachal Pradesh and westernmost state is Gujarat.



**B-21 The Correct Answer is: d) 1, 2, 3 & 5 only**

**Explanation:** The Tropic of Cancer ( $23^{\circ} 30' N$ ) divides India into almost two equal parts. It passes through eight Indian states. These are Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tripura and Mizoram. The duration of the days increases with the northward movement of the sun. The position of the sun on 21 June is vertically overhead the Tropic of cancer.

**B-22 The Correct Answer is: a) 1, 2 and 3 only**

**Explanation:** The local time of places that lie on the different meridians differ. It is, therefore, necessary to adopt the local time of some central meridian of a country as the standard time for the country for uniformity.

In India, the longitude of  $82^{\circ} E$  ( $82^{\circ} 30' E$ ) is treated as the standard meridian and the local time at this meridian is considered as the standard time for the whole country. It is known as the Indian Standard Time (IST). The meridian passing through Allahabad at  $82^{\circ} 30' E$  longitude has been selected as the central meridian for India, corresponding to a single time zone for the country at 5 hours and 30 minutes in advance of GMT.

Standard Meridian passes through Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. The longitudinal extent of India is around  $29^{\circ}$ , hence the time difference in India between its eastern and western extremities is roughly of two hours.

**B-23 The Correct Answer is: d) 4-1-3-2-5**

**Explanation:** The Andaman and the Nicobar Islands lie to the southeast of the Indian mainland in the Bay of Bengal. The Andaman Islands are divided into three main islands i.e. **North, Middle and South**. **Port Blair**, the capital of Andaman Nicobar Islands lies in the South Andaman. **Duncan passage** separates Little Andaman from South Andaman. The Great Andaman group of islands in the north is separated by the **Ten Degree Channel** from the Nicobar group in the south.

**Coco channel** passage between Little Coco island of Myanmar and North Andaman island of India; in the Bay of Bengal  $14^{\circ} N$  passes through this channel. It is the northern most point of the island. The **Barren and Narcondam Islands**, north of Port Blair, are volcanic islands [these are the only active volcanoes in India]. Some of the islands are fringed with coral reefs. Many of them are covered with thick forests. Most of the islands are mountainous. **Saddle peak** in North Andaman is the highest peak.

Among the Nicobar Islands, the Great Nicobar is the largest. It is the southernmost island and is very close to Sumatra island of Indonesia. The Car Nicobar is the northernmost. Indira Point (Great Nicobar) Southernmost point of the island as well as of India. Most of these islands are made of tertiary sandstone, limestone and shale resting on basic and ultrabasic volcanoes.

**B-24 The Correct Answer is: a) 36**

**Explanation:** India's smallest Union Territory Lakshadweep is an archipelago consisting of 36 islands with an area of 32 sB- km off the southwestern coast of India. (<https://lakshadweep.gov.in/>) Kavaratti serves as the capital of the Union Territory and the region comes under the jurisdiction of Kerala High Court.

The main islands are Kavaratti, Agatti, Minicoy, and Amini. The total population of the territory is 64,429 according to the 2011 census. Agatti has an airport with direct flights from Kochi. The Lakshadweep is a group of 36 islands. with an area of 32 sB- km. Hence, A is the correct option.



**B-25 The Correct Answer is: d) All of the above**

**Explanation:** India occupies an important strategic position in South Asia. India has 28 states and nine Union Territories India shares its land boundaries with Pakistan and Afghanistan in the northwest, China (Tibet), Nepal and Bhutan in the north and Myanmar and Bangladesh in the east.

India has the third-largest international border in the world after China and Russia, and also the most sensitive border of the World that varies from extreme climatic conditions to infiltration.

India has 15,106.7 Km of land border and a coastline of 7,516.6 Km including island territories. The length of our land borders with neighbouring countries is as under:

Name of the country	Length of the border (in Km)
Bangladesh	4,096.7
China	3,488
Pakistan	3,323
Nepal	1,751
Myanmar	1,643
Bhutan	699
Afghanistan	106

**B-26 The Correct Answer is: c) 1, 3, 4 and 6 only**

**Explanation:** Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat share border with Pakistan (North to South)

**B-27 The Correct Answer is: d) None of the above**

**Explanation:** India has 15,106.7 Km of land border and a coastline of 7,516.6 Km including island territories. India shares longest border is with Bangladesh while the shortest border is with Afghanistan.

The border is not fully demarcated and the LAC is neither clarified nor confirmed by the two countries. India-China border is divided into three sectors:

- The LAC in the western sector falls in the union territory of Ladakh and is 1597 km long,
- The middle sector of 545 km length falls in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, and
- The 1346 km long eastern sector falls in the states of Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.

The main differences are in the Western and Eastern sectors. India sees China as occupying 38,000 sq- km in Aksai Chin. In the east, China claims as much as 90,000 sq- km, extending all across Arunachal Pradesh. The middle sector is the least disputed sector, while the western sector witnesses the highest transgressions between the two sides.

Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh & Union Territory Ladakh, share border with China

**B-28 The Correct Answer is: d) 2, 3, 5 and 6 only**





**B-29 The Correct Answer is: d) 09**

**Explanation:** India is surrounded by water on three sides. The length of the Indian Coastline is 7516.6 kms. The Indian coastline extends from Bay of Bengal in the east to Indian Ocean in the south to Arabian sea in the west. India has a coastline that touches Nine States and four Union Territories. The coastal states of India are Gujarat (1214.70 km), Maharashtra (652.60 km), Goa (101 Km), Karnataka (280 km), Kerala (569.70 km), Tamil Nadu (906.9 km), Andhra Pradesh (973.7 km), Odisha (476.4 km) & West Bengal (157.50 km). The coastal union Territories of India are Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (42.20 km), Lakshadweep (132 km), Puducherry (47.6 km) and Andaman Nicobar Islands (1962 kms.).

**B-30 The Correct Answer is: d) Gujarat**

**Explanation:** The state of Gujarat has the longest coastline whereas that of Goa is the shortest.

**B-31 The Correct Answer is: d) 1,3 & 4 only**

**B-32 The Correct Answer is: d) All of the above**

**Explanation:** The political map of India clearly shows that Assam shares border with Bhutan and Bangladesh. West Bengal shares border with Bhutan and Nepal and Mizoram shares border with Bangladesh and Myanmar. Thus all the above three





**A-1 Which of the following statements about Israel is TRUE?**

1. It shares a border with Lebanon.
2. It is a narrow country located in the Middle East along the Mediterranean Sea.
3. The Dead Sea, a saltwater lake, is located to the east of Israel.
4. The Negev Desert covers a significant portion of Israel.

- a) Only one  
b) Only two and three  
c) Only four  
d) All of the above

**A-2 Israel shares its borders with which of the following countries?**

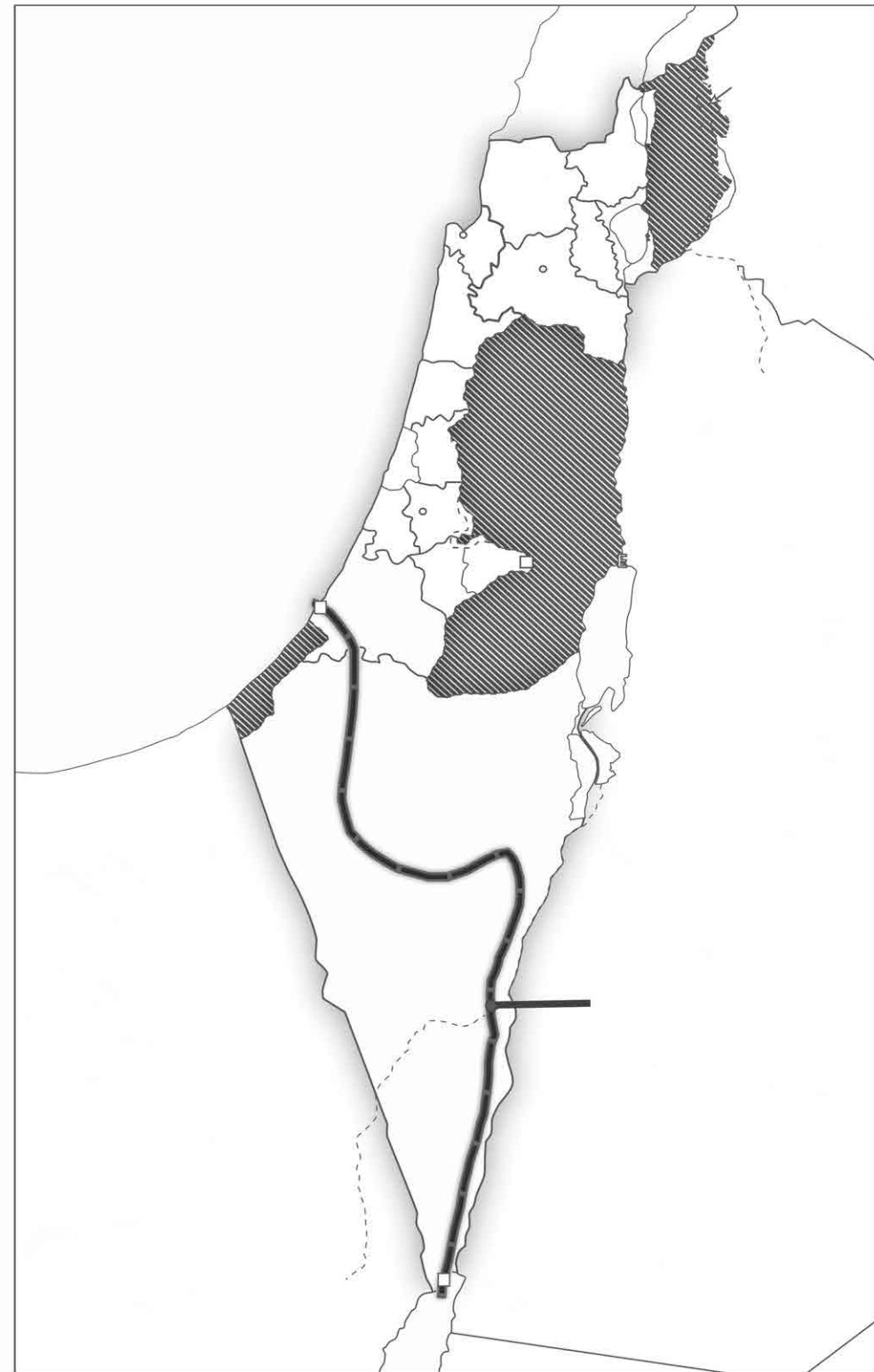
1. Saudi Arabia
2. Syria
3. Iraq
4. Egypt
5. Lebanon

Select the correct answer based on the codes given below:

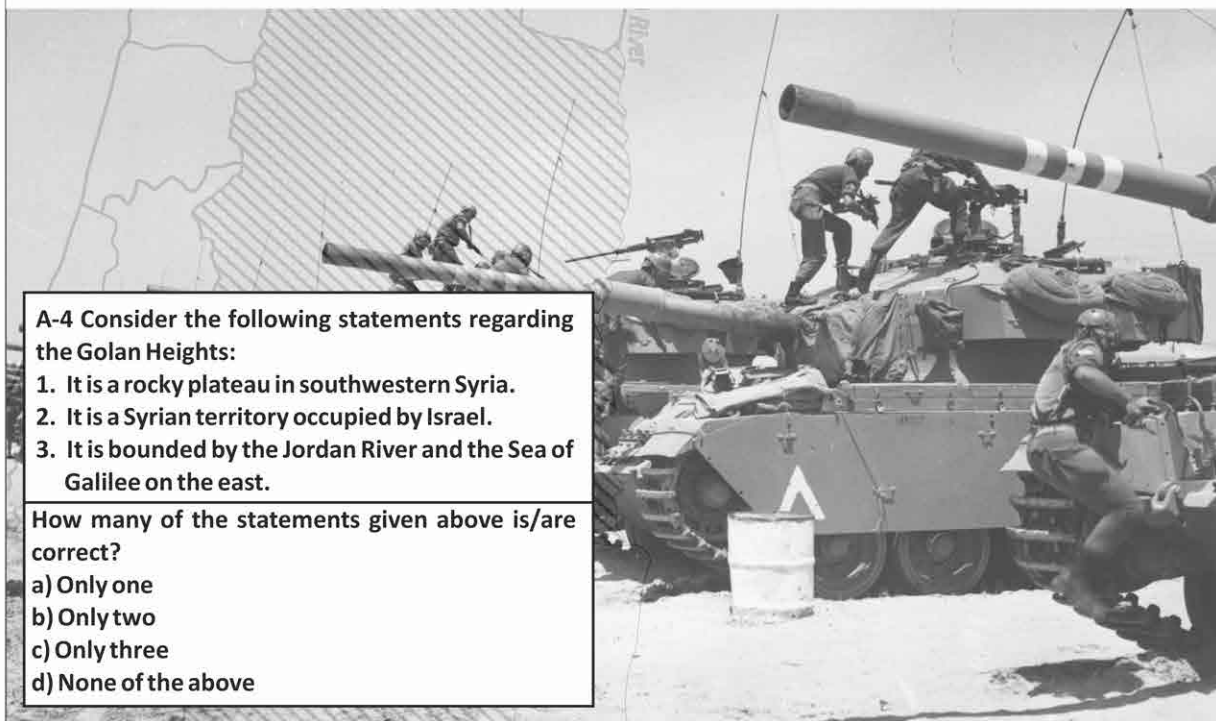
- (a) 1, 2 and 5 only  
(b) 2, 4, and 5 only  
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only  
(d) 1, 3 and 4 only

**A-3 Which one of the following is correct regarding the Ben Gurion Canal Project, seen in the news recently?**

- a) It is a shipping route in the Arctic Ocean that is opening up as the polar ice caps melt.  
b) It is a proposed canal that would connect the Caribbean Sea with the Pacific Ocean and potentially rival the Panama Canal.  
c) It is proposed alternative route for shipping between the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea.  
d) It is a proposed waterway that would cut through Thailand and connect the Indian Ocean with the Pacific Ocean, potentially reducing travel times for ships.





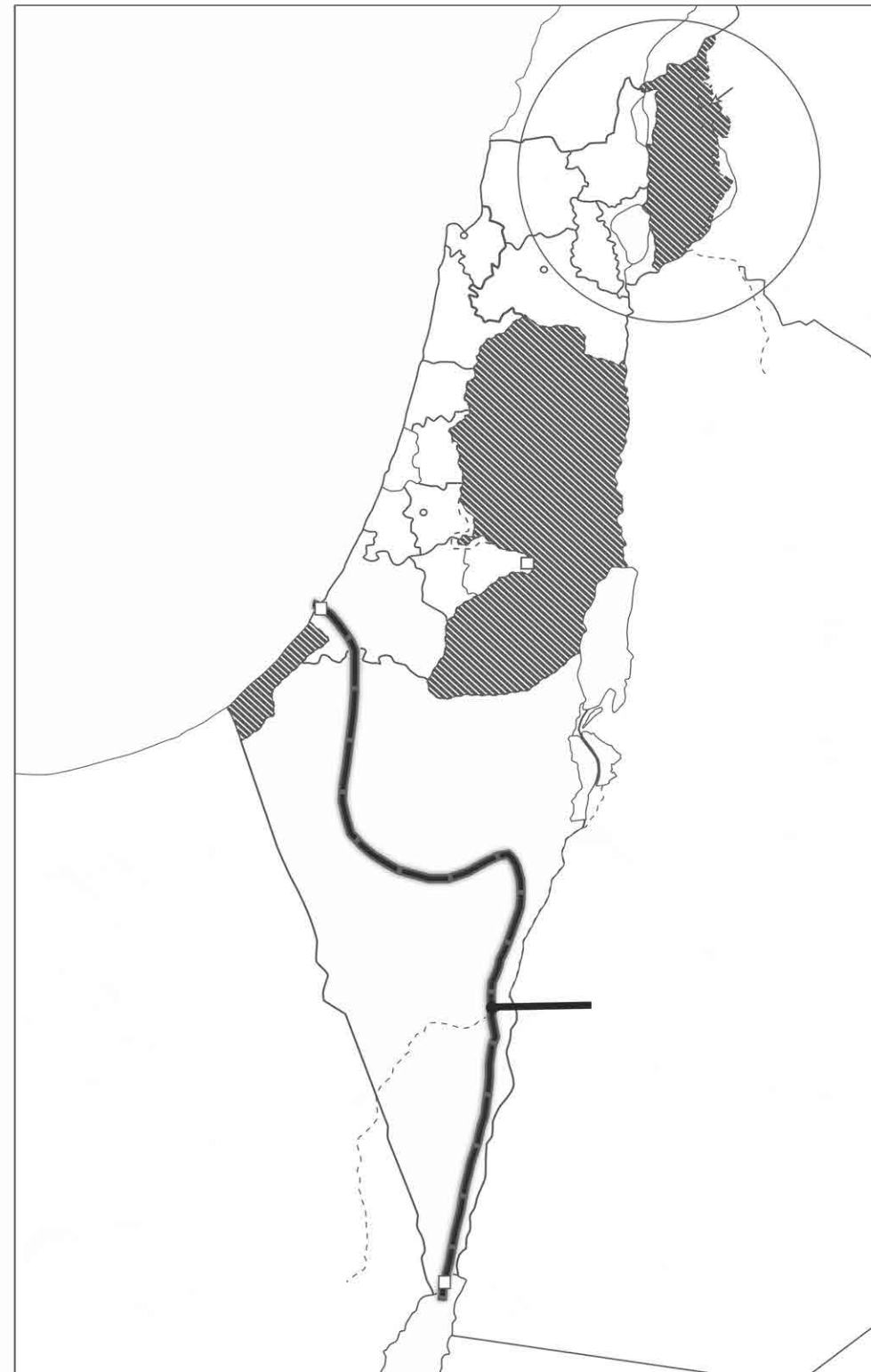


**A-4 Consider the following statements regarding the Golan Heights:**

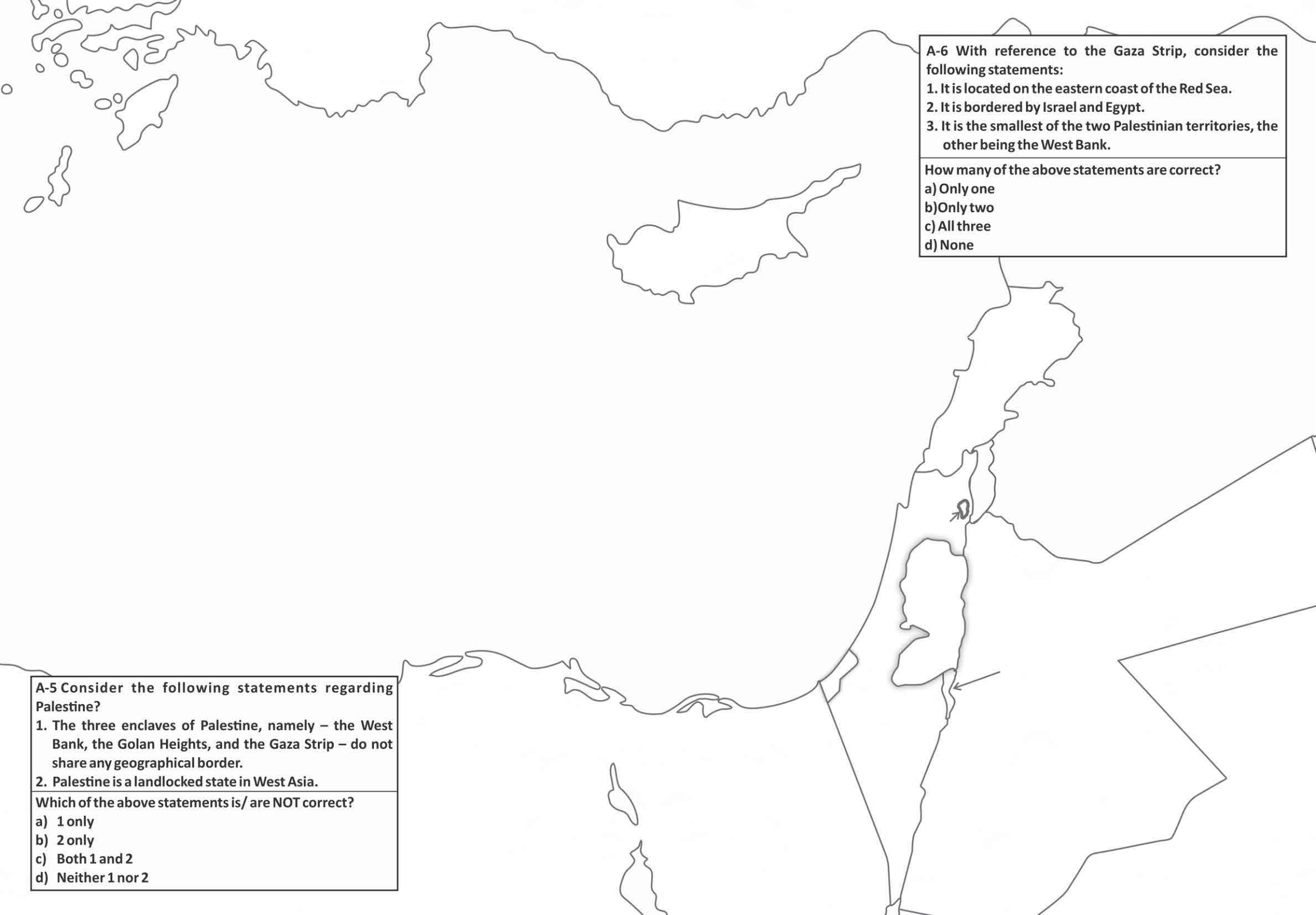
1. It is a rocky plateau in southwestern Syria.
2. It is a Syrian territory occupied by Israel.
3. It is bounded by the Jordan River and the Sea of Galilee on the east.

**How many of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None of the above







**A-6 With reference to the Gaza Strip, consider the following statements:**

- 1. It is located on the eastern coast of the Red Sea.**
- 2. It is bordered by Israel and Egypt.**
- 3. It is the smallest of the two Palestinian territories, the other being the West Bank.**

**How many of the above statements are correct?**

- a) Only one**
- b) Only two**
- c) All three**
- d) None**

**A-5 Consider the following statements regarding Palestine?**

- 1. The three enclaves of Palestine, namely – the West Bank, the Golan Heights, and the Gaza Strip – do not share any geographical border.**
- 2. Palestine is a landlocked state in West Asia.**

**Which of the above statements is/ are NOT correct?**

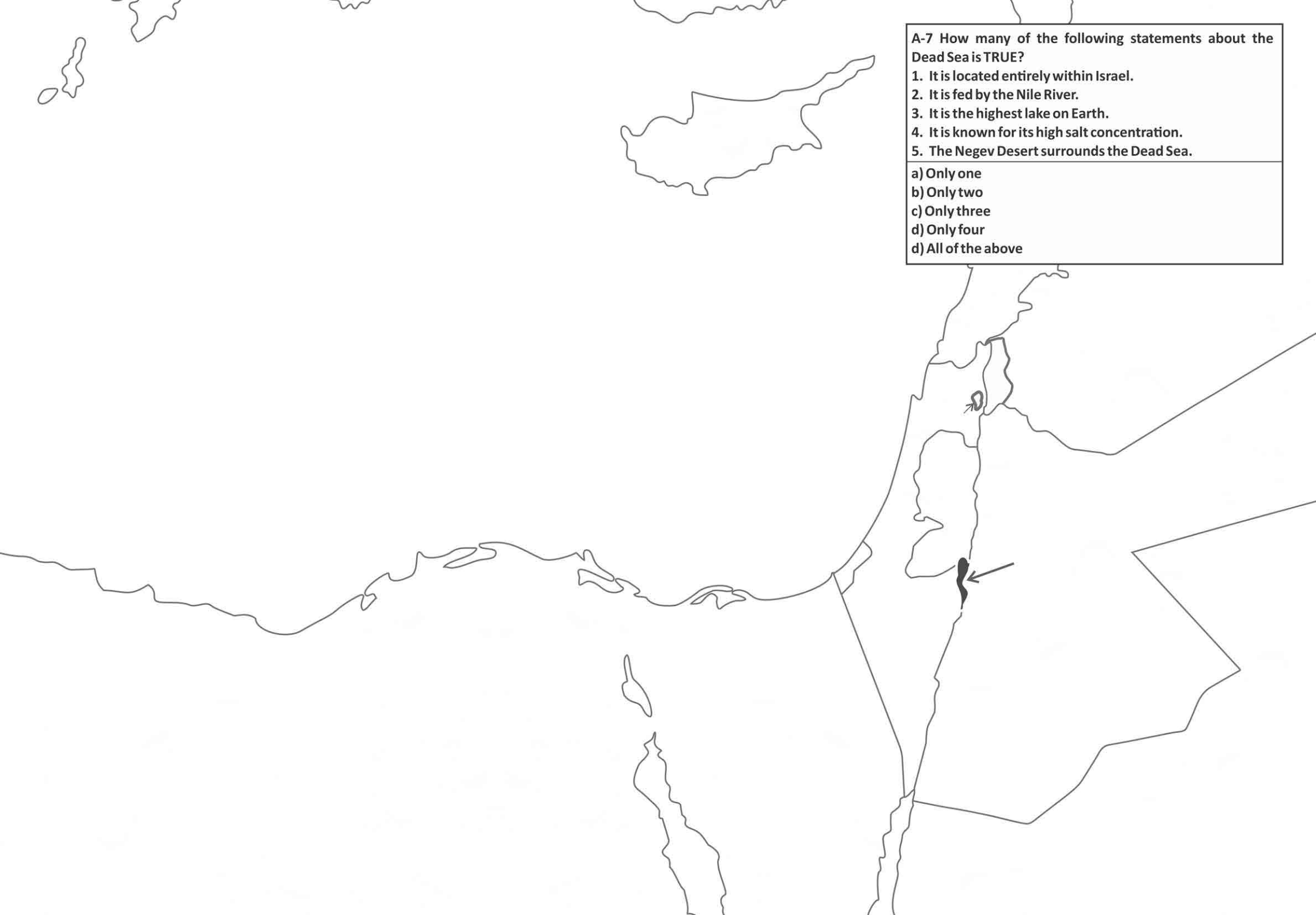
- a) 1 only**
- b) 2 only**
- c) Both 1 and 2**
- d) Neither 1 nor 2**



A-7 How many of the following statements about the Dead Sea is TRUE?

1. It is located entirely within Israel.
2. It is fed by the Nile River.
3. It is the highest lake on Earth.
4. It is known for its high salt concentration.
5. The Negev Desert surrounds the Dead Sea.

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) Only four
- d) All of the above





A-8 Consider the following statements:

1. The Suez Canal is an artificial sea-level waterway that connects the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea.
2. The Suez Canal is operated jointly by Britain and France.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

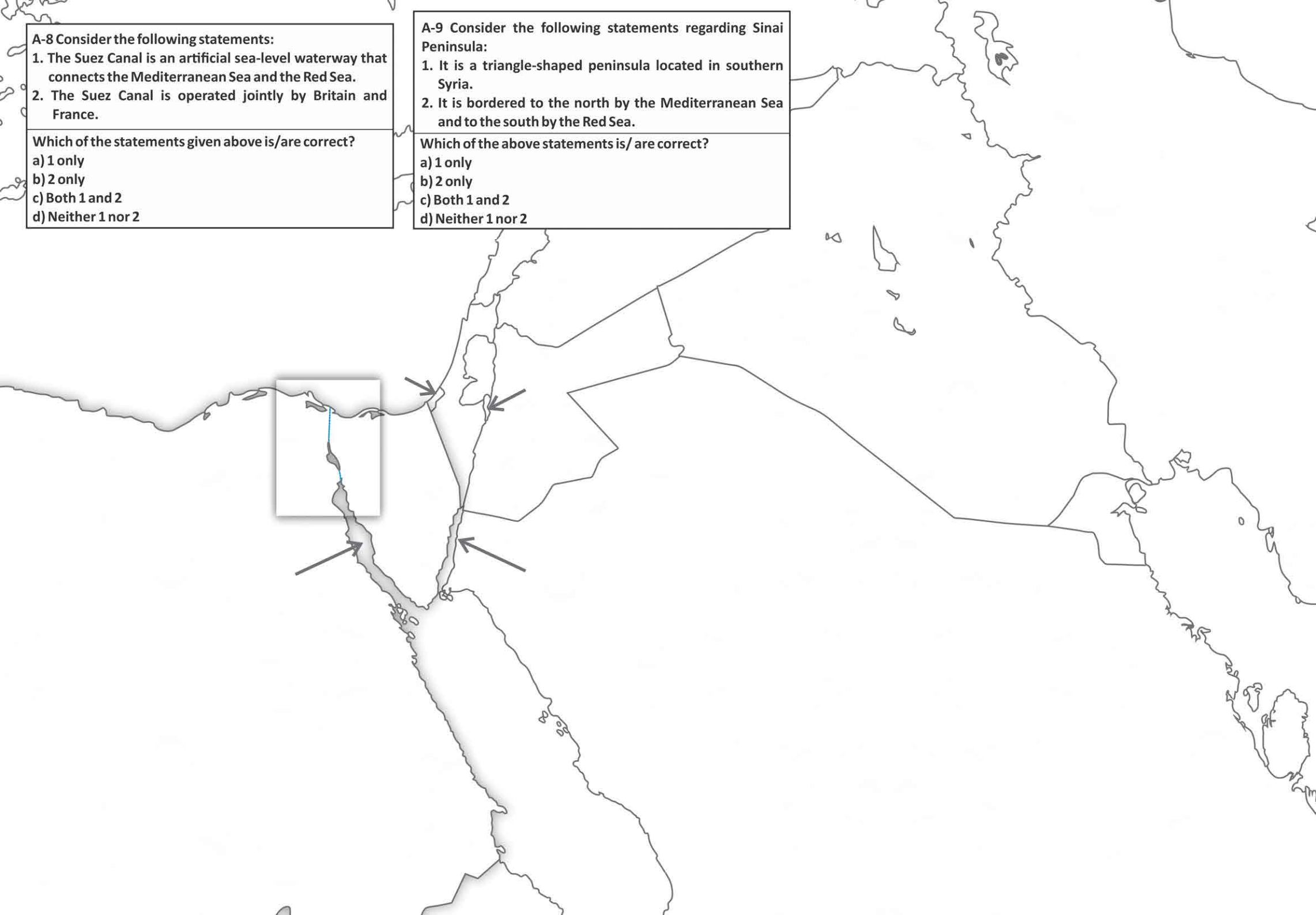
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

A-9 Consider the following statements regarding Sinai Peninsula:

1. It is a triangle-shaped peninsula located in southern Syria.
2. It is bordered to the north by the Mediterranean Sea and to the south by the Red Sea.

Which of the above statements is/ are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2



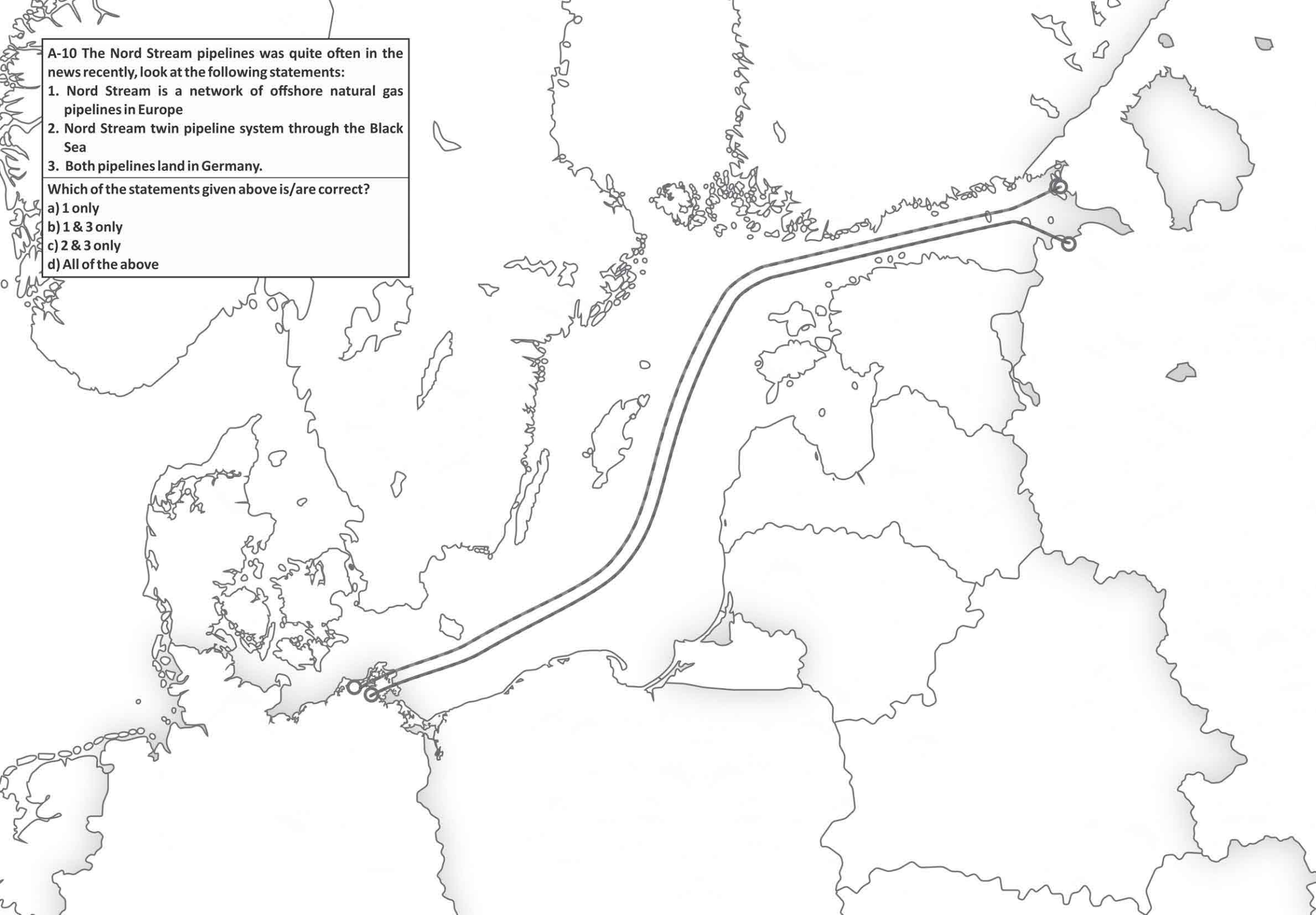


A-10 The Nord Stream pipelines was quite often in the news recently, look at the following statements:

1. Nord Stream is a network of offshore natural gas pipelines in Europe
2. Nord Stream twin pipeline system through the Black Sea
3. Both pipelines land in Germany.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 & 3 only
- c) 2 & 3 only
- d) All of the above





A-11 'The United Kingdom' consists of England and \_\_\_\_?

- a) Northern Ireland, Paima and Iceland
- b) Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales
- c) Scotland, Wales and Faroe Island
- d) Scotland, Sardinia and Wales.

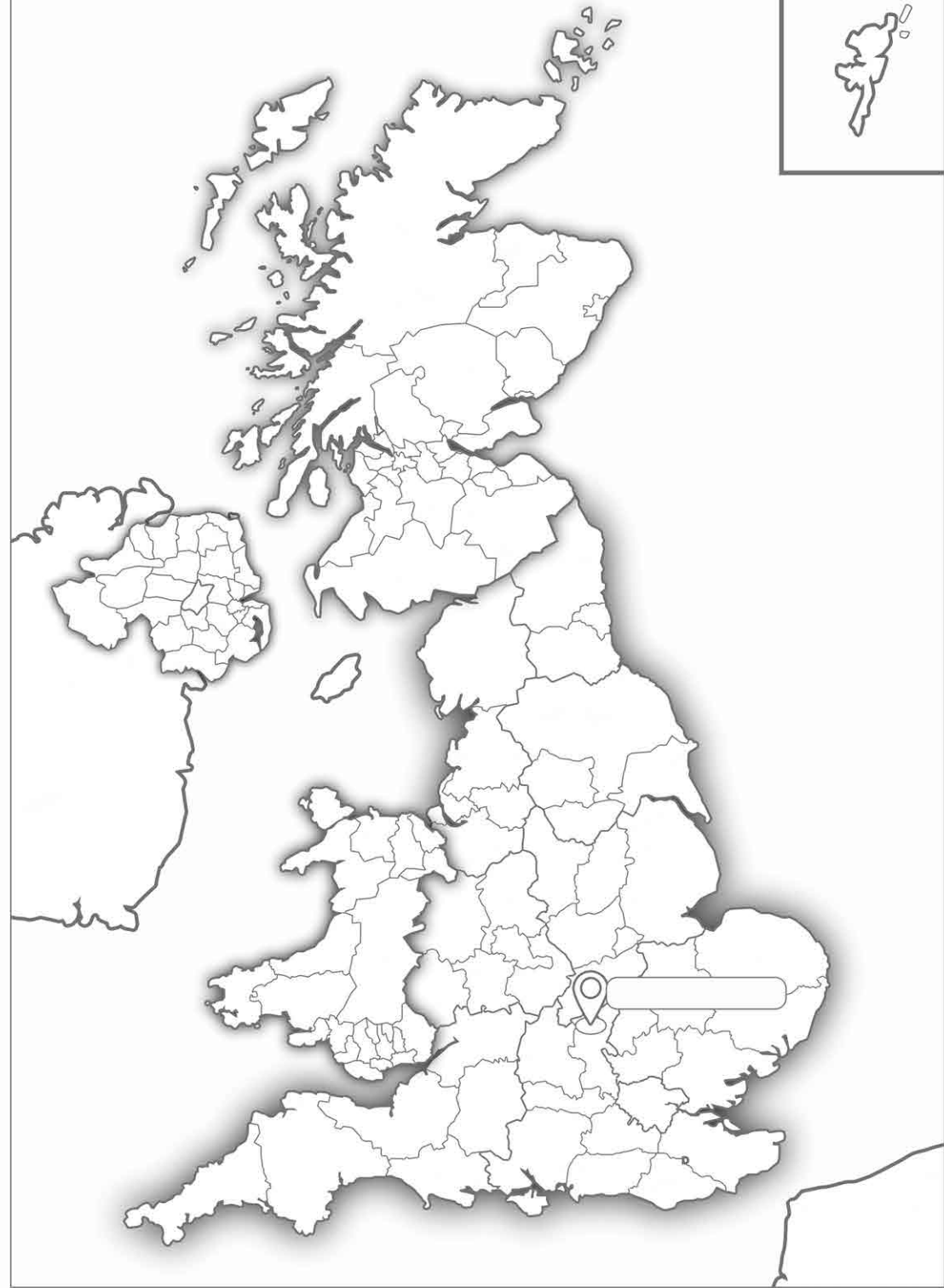
A-12 With how many countries, United Kingdom shares its land border?

- a) 3
- b) 1
- c) 0
- d) 5



A-13 Which country hosted the signing ceremony for the Bletchley Park Declaration?

- a) United States
- b) France
- c) India
- d) United Kingdom





**A-14 Consider the following countries:**

1. Bulgaria
2. Czech Republic
3. Hungary
4. Latvia
5. Lithuania
6. Romania

**How many of the above-mentioned countries share a land border with the Ukraine?**

- a) Only two
- b) Only three
- c) Only four
- d) Only five

**A-15 With reference to the Dnieper River, consider the following statements:**

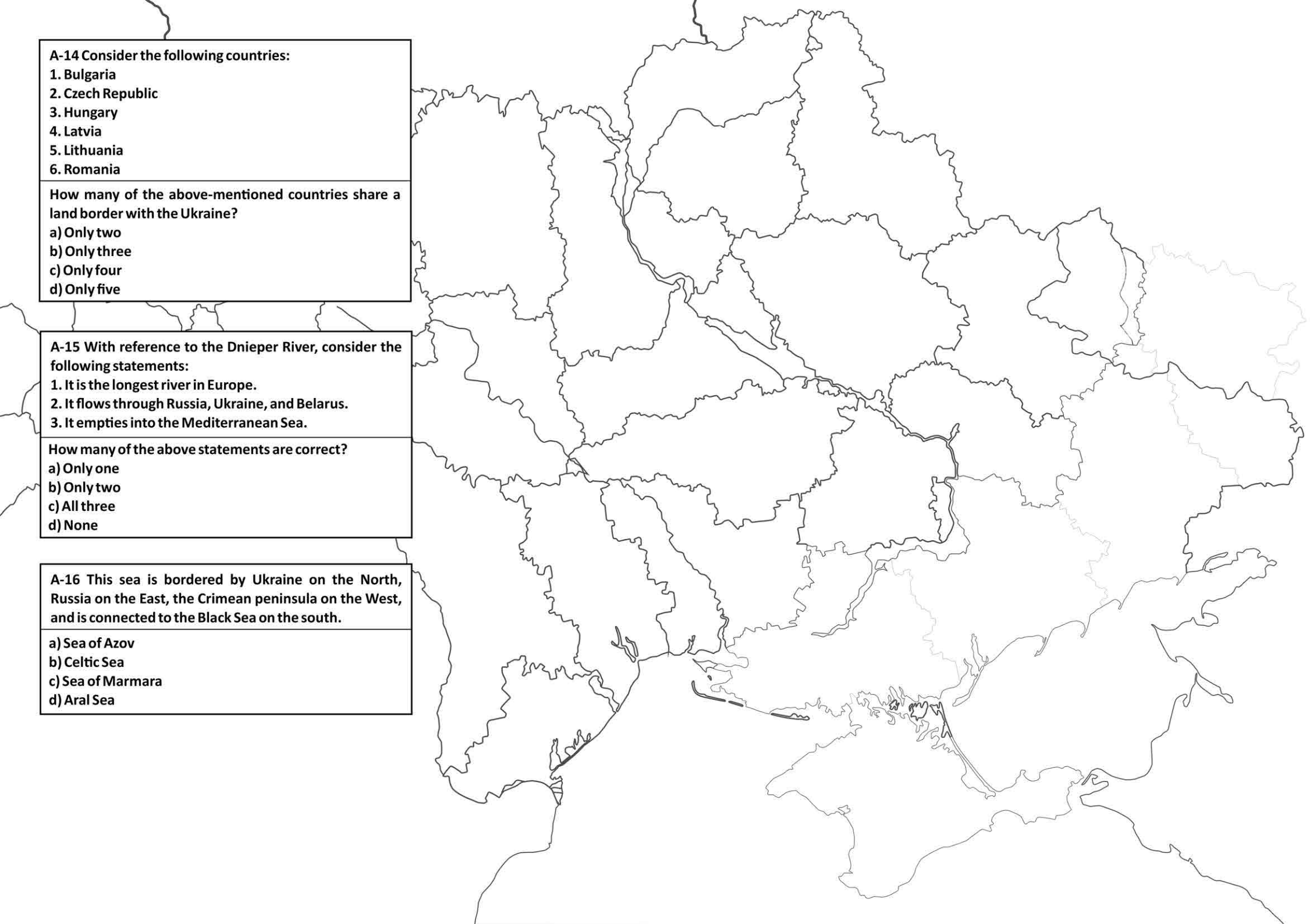
1. It is the longest river in Europe.
2. It flows through Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus.
3. It empties into the Mediterranean Sea.

**How many of the above statements are correct?**

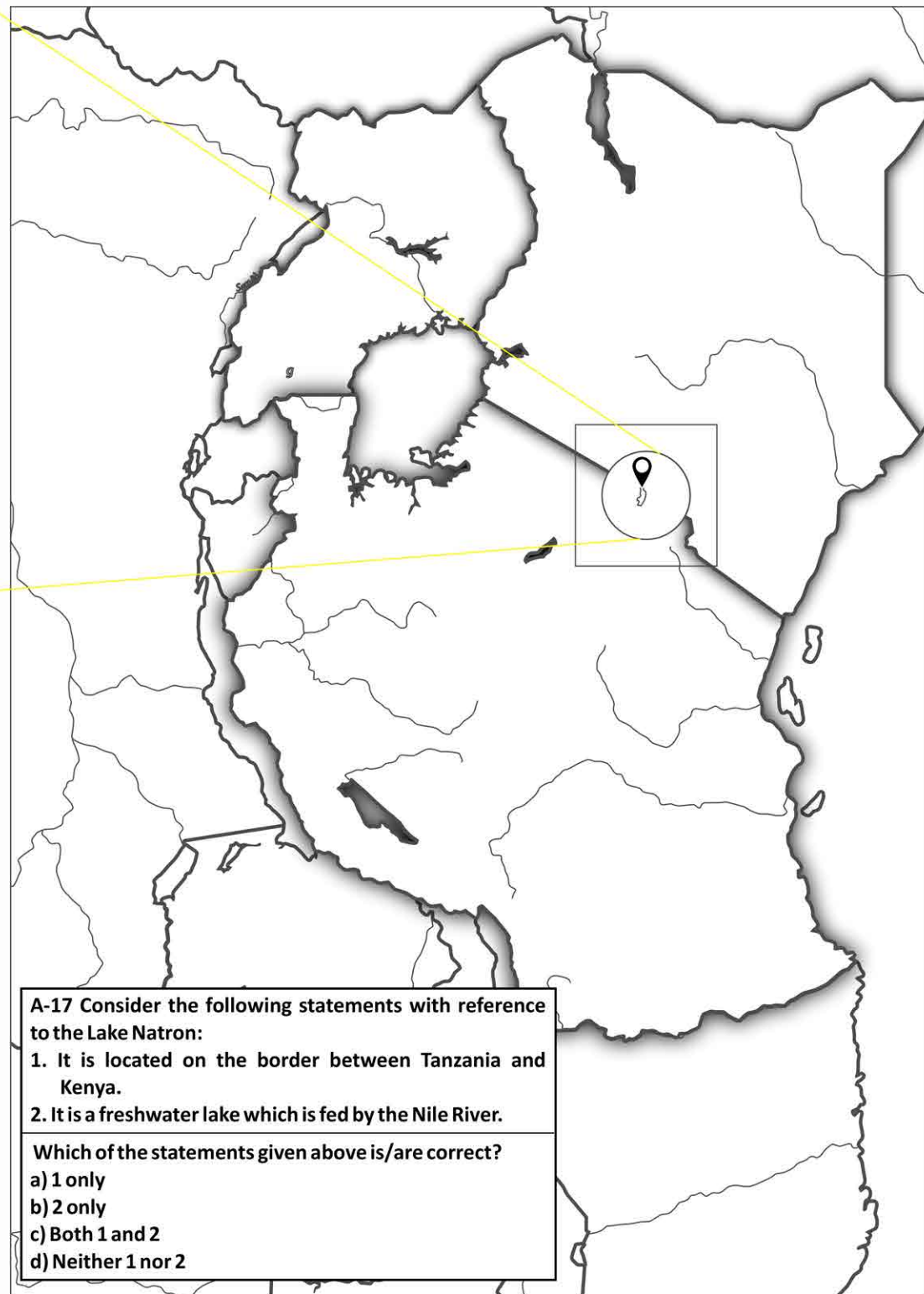
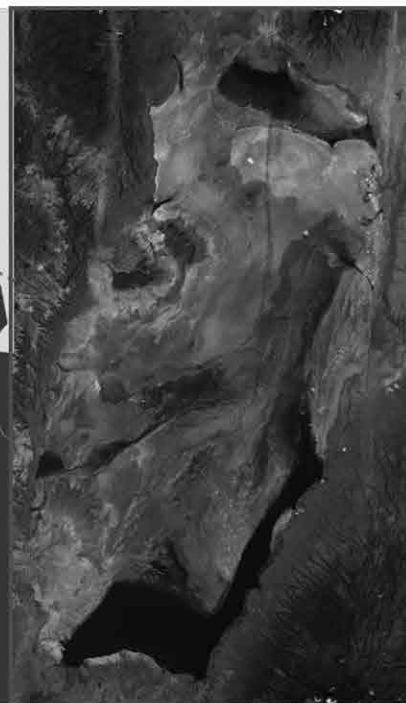
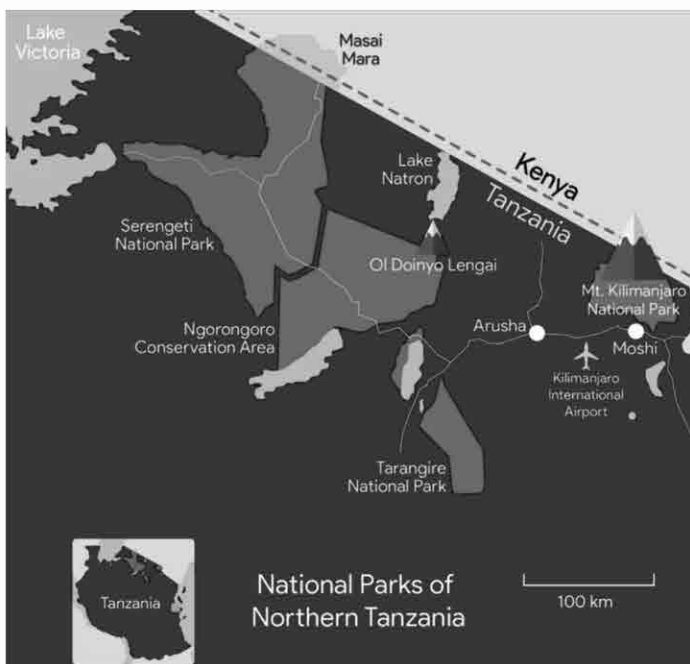
- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**A-16 This sea is bordered by Ukraine on the North, Russia on the East, the Crimean peninsula on the West, and is connected to the Black Sea on the south.**

- a) Sea of Azov
- b) Celtic Sea
- c) Sea of Marmara
- d) Aral Sea







**A-17** Consider the following statements with reference to the Lake Natron:

1. It is located on the border between Tanzania and Kenya.
2. It is a freshwater lake which is fed by the Nile River.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2



A-18 The South China Sea Dispute involves which of the following countries?

1. China
2. Vietnam
3. Malaysia
4. Indonesia

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a) 1 and 4
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) 2, 3 and 4

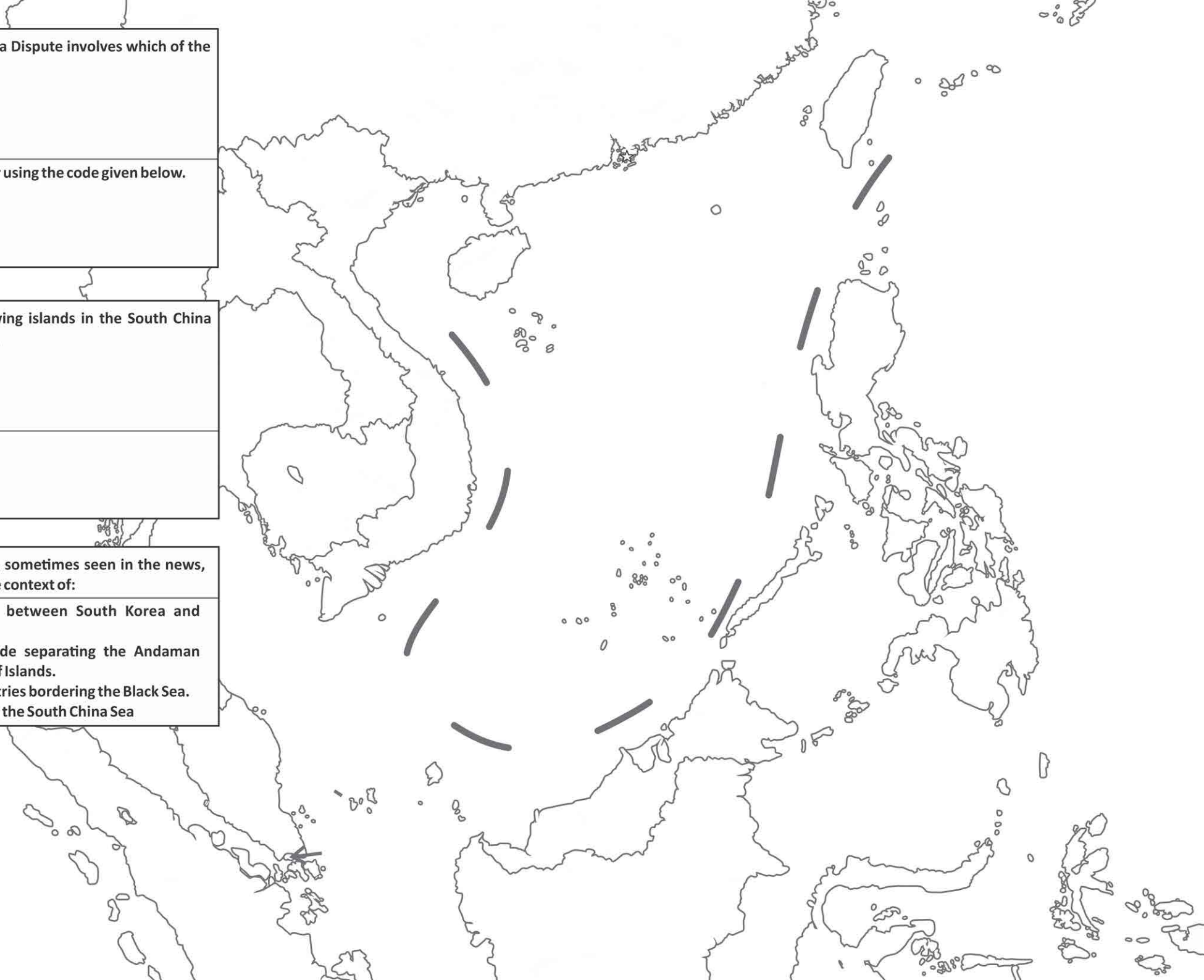
A-19 Arrange the following islands in the South China Sea from North to South.

1. Spratly Islands
2. Natuna Islands
3. Paracel Islands.
4. Scarborough Shoal

- a) 3-4-2-1
- b) 4-3-1-2
- c) 3-4-1-2
- d) 4-1-2-3

A-20 The Nine-dash line, sometimes seen in the news, refers to or appears in the context of:

- a) Territorial disputes between South Korea and North Korea
- b) An imaginary latitude separating the Andaman and Nicobar group of Islands.
- c) Disputes in the countries bordering the Black Sea.
- d) Maritime disputes in the South China Sea





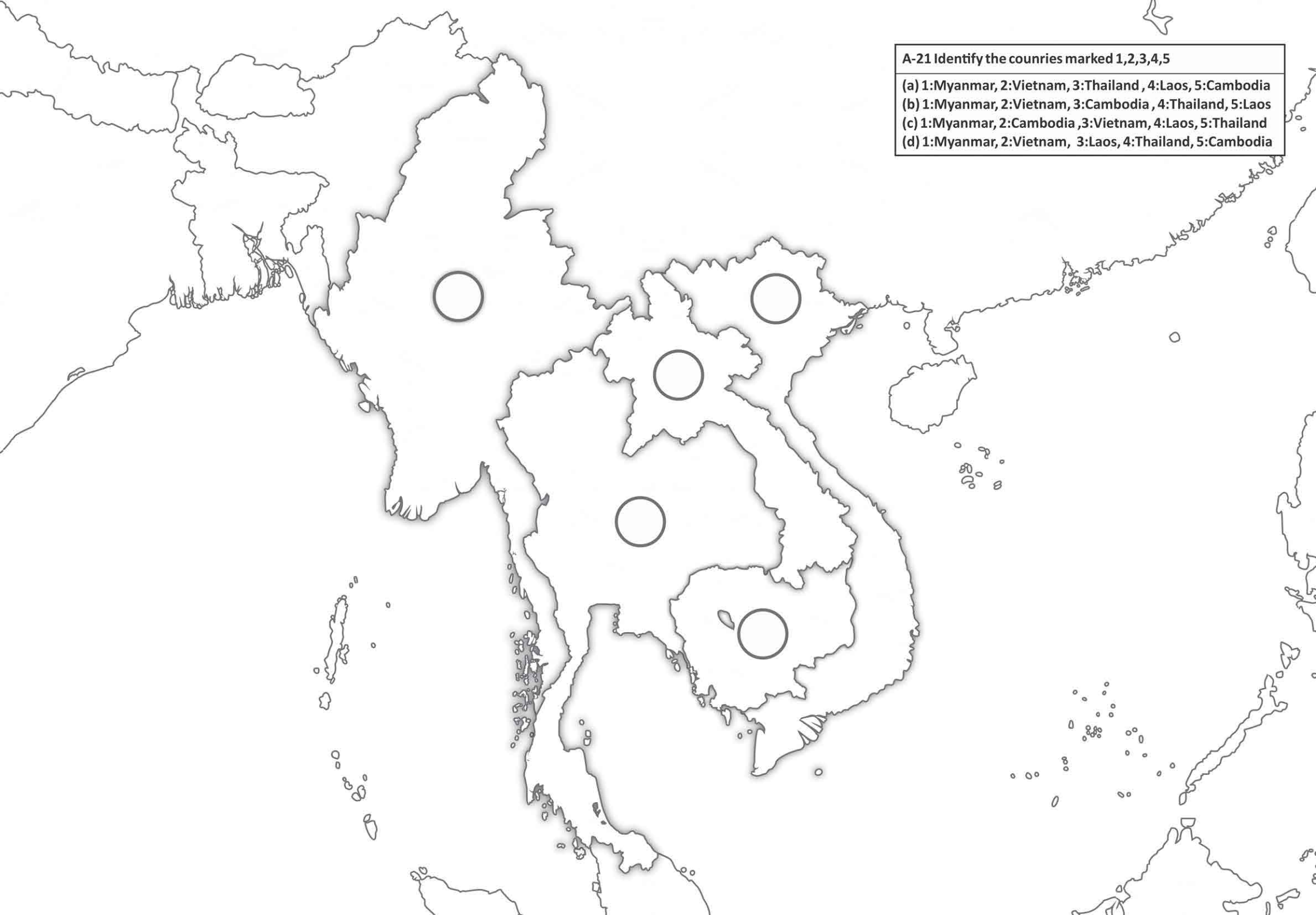
A-21 Identify the countries marked 1,2,3,4,5

(a) 1:Myanmar, 2:Vietnam, 3:Thailand , 4:Laos, 5:Cambodia

(b) 1:Myanmar, 2:Vietnam, 3:Cambodia , 4:Thailand, 5:Laos

(c) 1:Myanmar, 2:Cambodia ,3:Vietnam, 4:Laos, 5:Thailand

(d) 1:Myanmar, 2:Vietnam, 3:Laos, 4:Thailand, 5:Cambodia





A-22 Papua New Guinea is located on the island of New Guinea, just north of Australia, seen at the bottom of this map. It is on the east half of the island, the west half of which is part of what country?

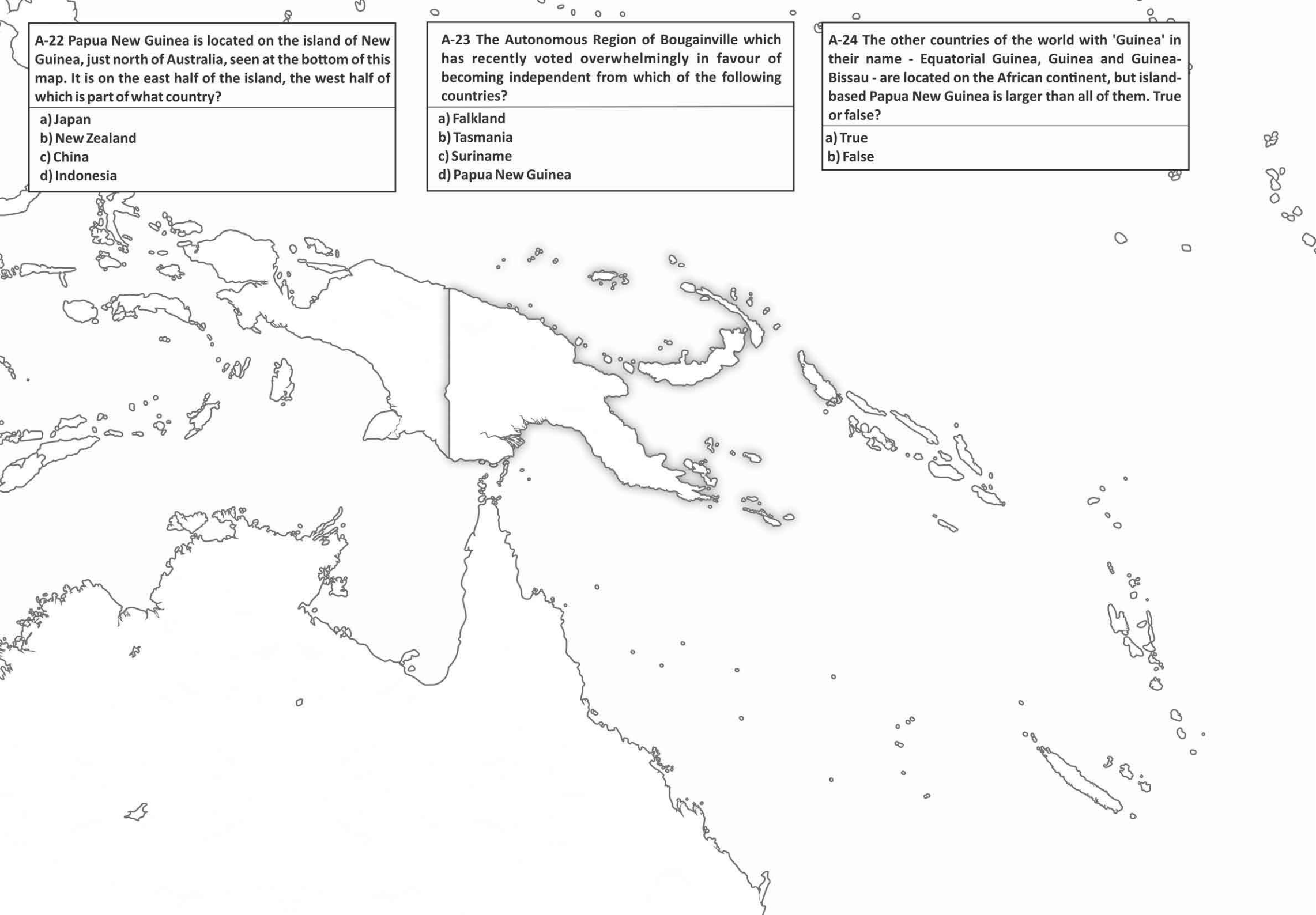
- a) Japan
- b) New Zealand
- c) China
- d) Indonesia

A-23 The Autonomous Region of Bougainville which has recently voted overwhelmingly in favour of becoming independent from which of the following countries?

- a) Falkland
- b) Tasmania
- c) Suriname
- d) Papua New Guinea

A-24 The other countries of the world with 'Guinea' in their name - Equatorial Guinea, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau - are located on the African continent, but island-based Papua New Guinea is larger than all of them. True or false?

- a) True
- b) False





A-25 Which among the following is the World's largest Wetland System?

- a) Camargue (France)
- b) Okavango (Botswana)
- c) Pantanal (South America)
- d) Everglades (USA)

A-26 Which countries share the Pantanal wetland?

- a) Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay
- b) Brazil, Bolivia, and Paraguay
- c) Brazil and Venezuela
- d) Brazil and Peru







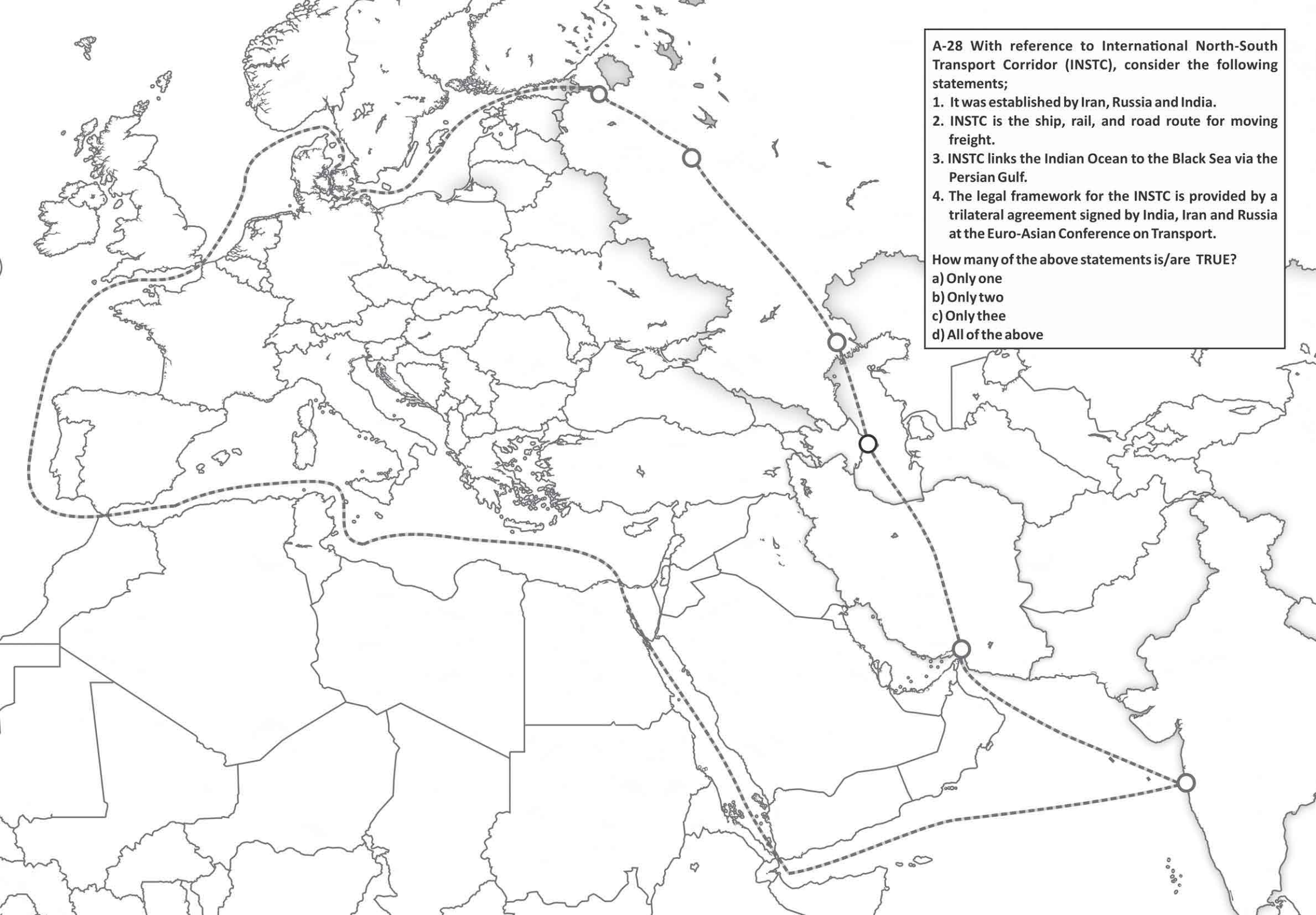
A-27 Consider the following statements:

1. It is the highest navigable water body in the world.
2. It is the largest freshwater lake in South America.
3. It is designated Ramsar Site of International Importance.

Which one of the following lakes has been described above?

- a) Nahuel Huapi Lake
- b) Lake Titicaca
- c) Lake Maracaibo
- d) Lake General Carrera





A-28 With reference to International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), consider the following statements;

1. It was established by Iran, Russia and India.
2. INSTC is the ship, rail, and road route for moving freight.
3. INSTC links the Indian Ocean to the Black Sea via the Persian Gulf.
4. The legal framework for the INSTC is provided by a trilateral agreement signed by India, Iran and Russia at the Euro-Asian Conference on Transport.

How many of the above statements is/are TRUE?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All of the above



**A-29 Where is the Davis Strait located?**

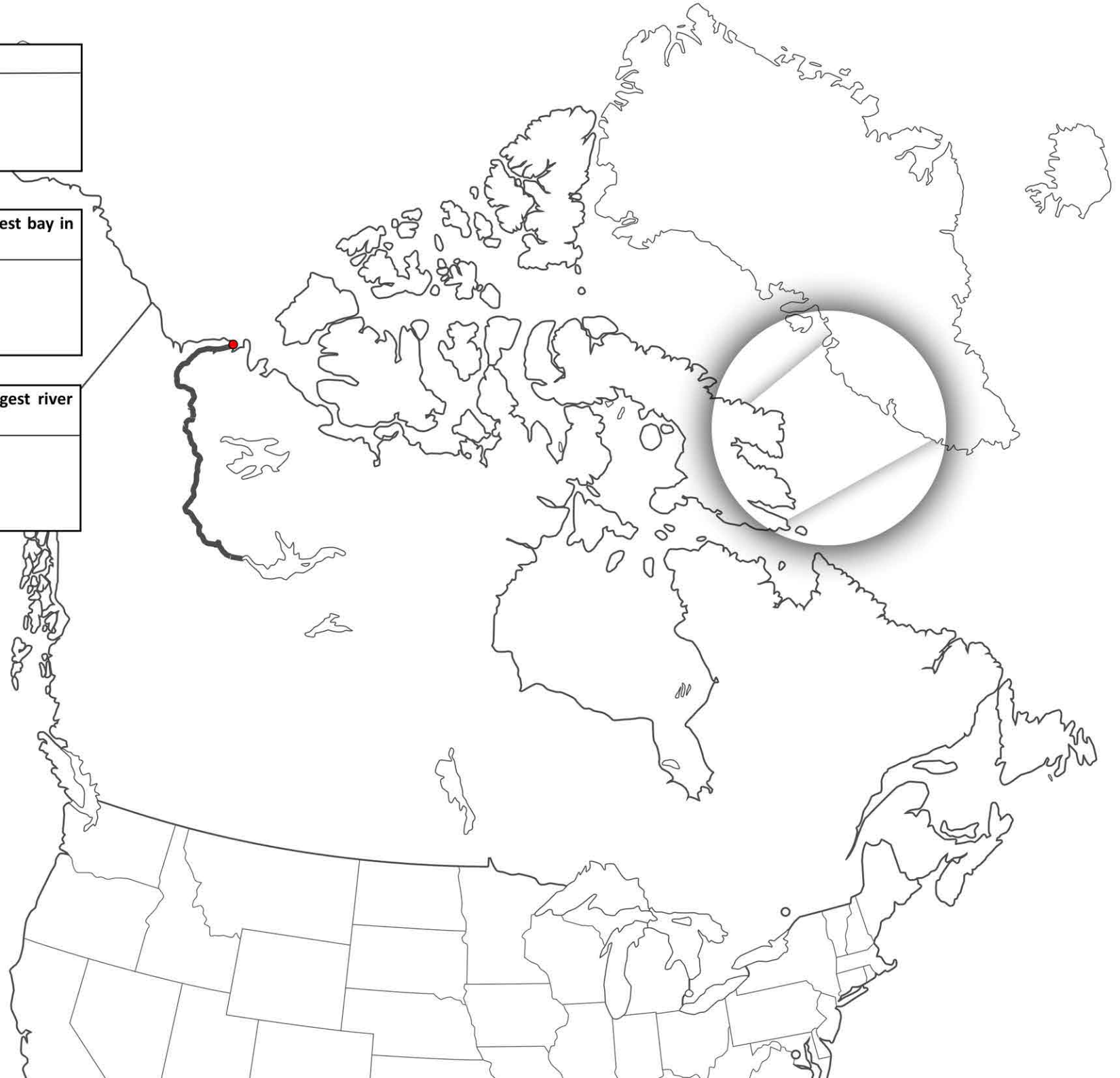
- a) Between Iceland and Norway
- b) Between Antarctica and South America
- c) Between Alaska and Siberia
- d) Between Greenland and Canada

**A-30 How do you spell the name of the biggest bay in Canada?**

- a) Hudson Bay
- b) Baffin Bay
- c) James Bay
- d) Bafinn Bay

**A-31 Mackenzie River Is the largest and longest river basin of which one the following countries?**

- a) Russia
- b) Australia
- c) Canada
- d) Germany







A-32 Consider the following statements:

1. It is a country located on the western coast of Africa.
2. It is often called the "Giant of Africa."
3. It achieved independence from Britain in 1960.
4. It is also Africa's most populous country.

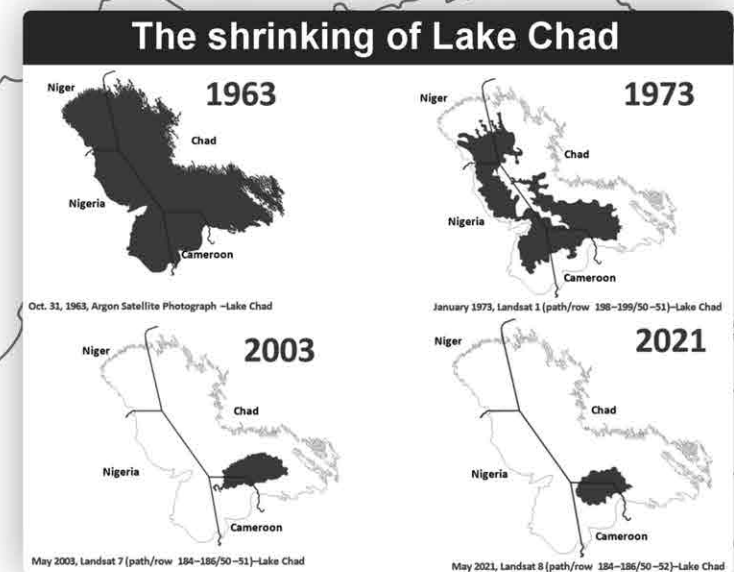
The above statements correctly describe which one of the following countries?

- a) Kenya
- b) Algeria
- c) Sudan
- d) Nigeria

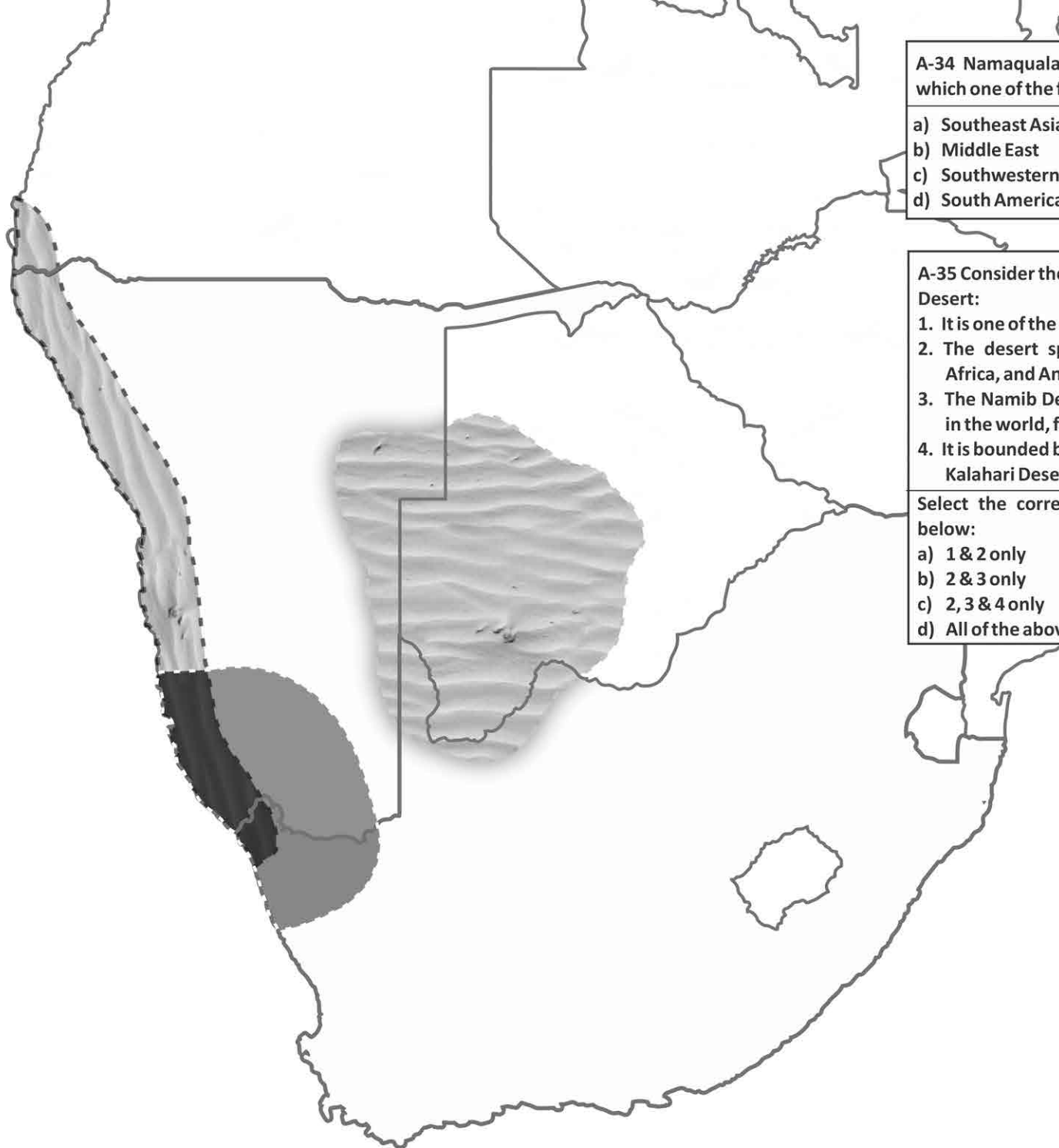
A-33 How many of the following statements about Lake Chad is TRUE?

1. It is located at the junction of Nigeria, Chad, Niger, and Cameroon.
2. It has been shrinking significantly over the last century.
3. It is a freshwater lake.

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None of the above







A-34 Namaqualand, recently seen in the news, lies in which one of the following regions?

- a) Southeast Asia
- b) Middle East
- c) Southwestern Africa
- d) South America

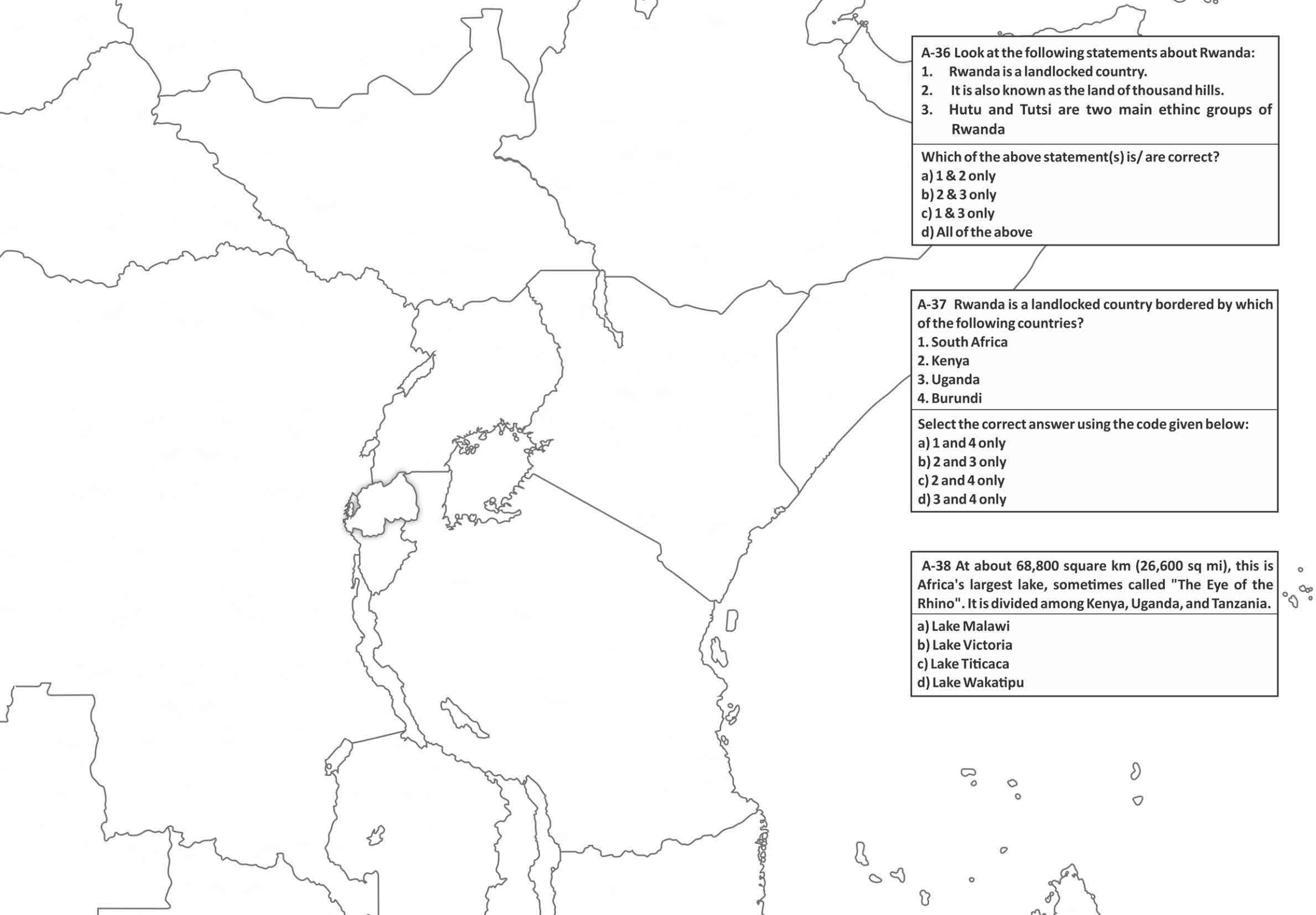
A-35 Consider the following statements about the Namib Desert:

1. It is one of the oldest deserts in the world.
2. The desert spans three countries: Namibia, South Africa, and Angola.
3. The Namib Desert is home to the highest sand dunes in the world, found at Sossusvlei.
4. It is bounded by the Atlantic Ocean to the west and the Kalahari Desert to the east

Select the correct answer based on the codes given below:

- a) 1 & 2 only
- b) 2 & 3 only
- c) 2, 3 & 4 only
- d) All of the above





A-36 Look at the following statements about Rwanda:

1. Rwanda is a landlocked country.
2. It is also known as the land of thousand hills.
3. Hutu and Tutsi are two main ethnic groups of Rwanda

Which of the above statement(s) is/ are correct?

- a) 1 & 2 only
- b) 2 & 3 only
- c) 1 & 3 only
- d) All of the above

A-37 Rwanda is a landlocked country bordered by which of the following countries?

1. South Africa
2. Kenya
3. Uganda
4. Burundi

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 and 4 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 2 and 4 only
- d) 3 and 4 only

A-38 At about 68,800 square km (26,600 sq mi), this is Africa's largest lake, sometimes called "The Eye of the Rhino". It is divided among Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania.

- a) Lake Malawi
- b) Lake Victoria
- c) Lake Titicaca
- d) Lake Wakatipu





A-39 The Rhine River flows through or along the borders of which of the following countries?

1. Switzerland
2. France
3. Belgium
4. Germany
5. Netherlands

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

- a) 1, 2, and 4 only
- b) 1, 2, 4, and 5 only
- c) 1, 3, 4, and 5 only
- d) All of the above

A-40 Consider the following statements about the Rhine River:

1. It originates in the Swiss Alps.
2. It forms part of the border between Germany and France.
3. It empties into the North Sea.
4. It is the longest river in Europe.

Which of the statements above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1, 2, and 3 only
- c) 2, 3, and 4 only
- d) All of the above



A-41 With reference to the MERCOSUR, consider the following statements:

1. It was created by signing the Treaty of Asunción in 1991.
2. India has signed the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with MERCOSUR.
3. It originally comprised Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay as its members.

How many of these statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) Only Four
- e) All of the above





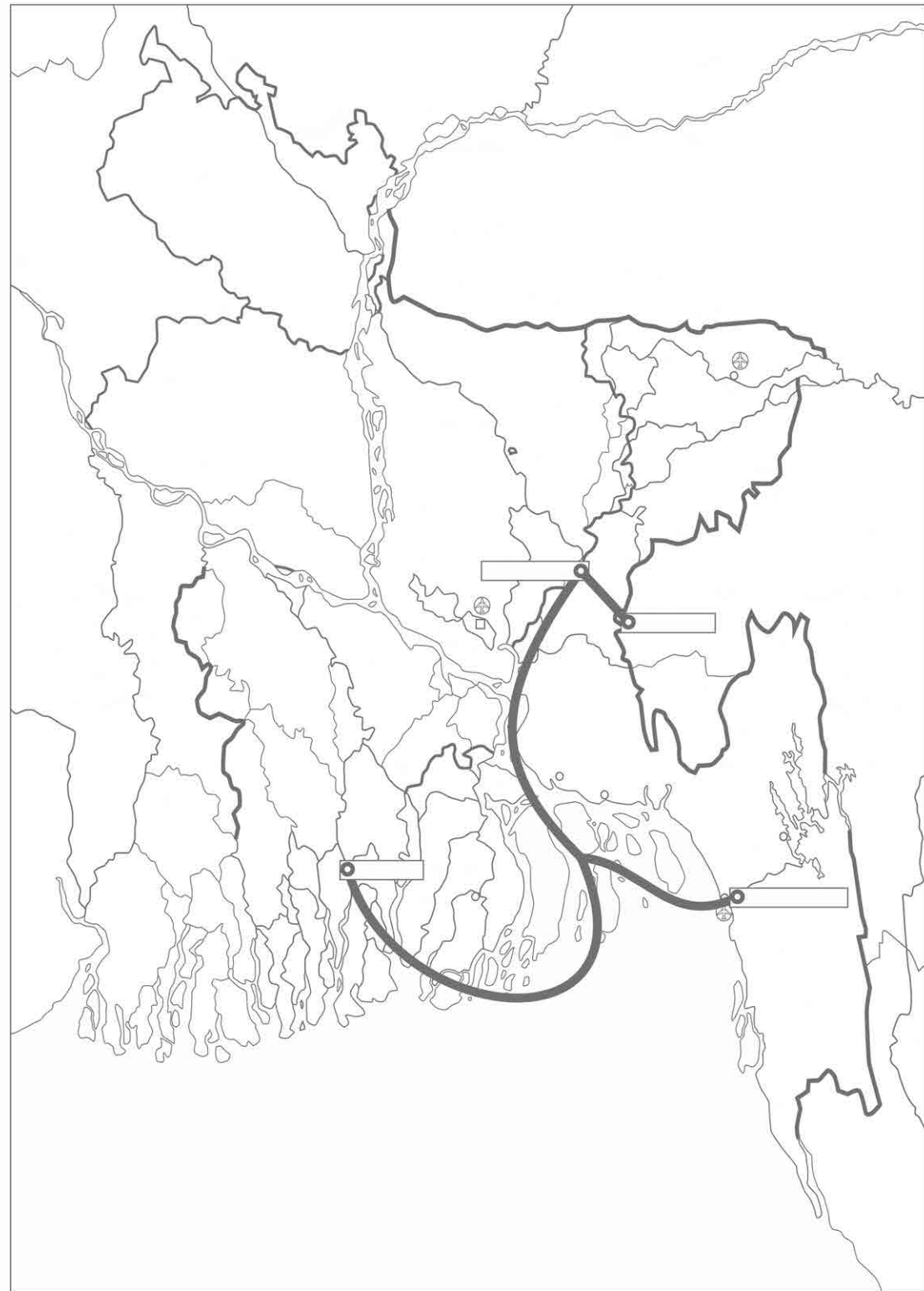
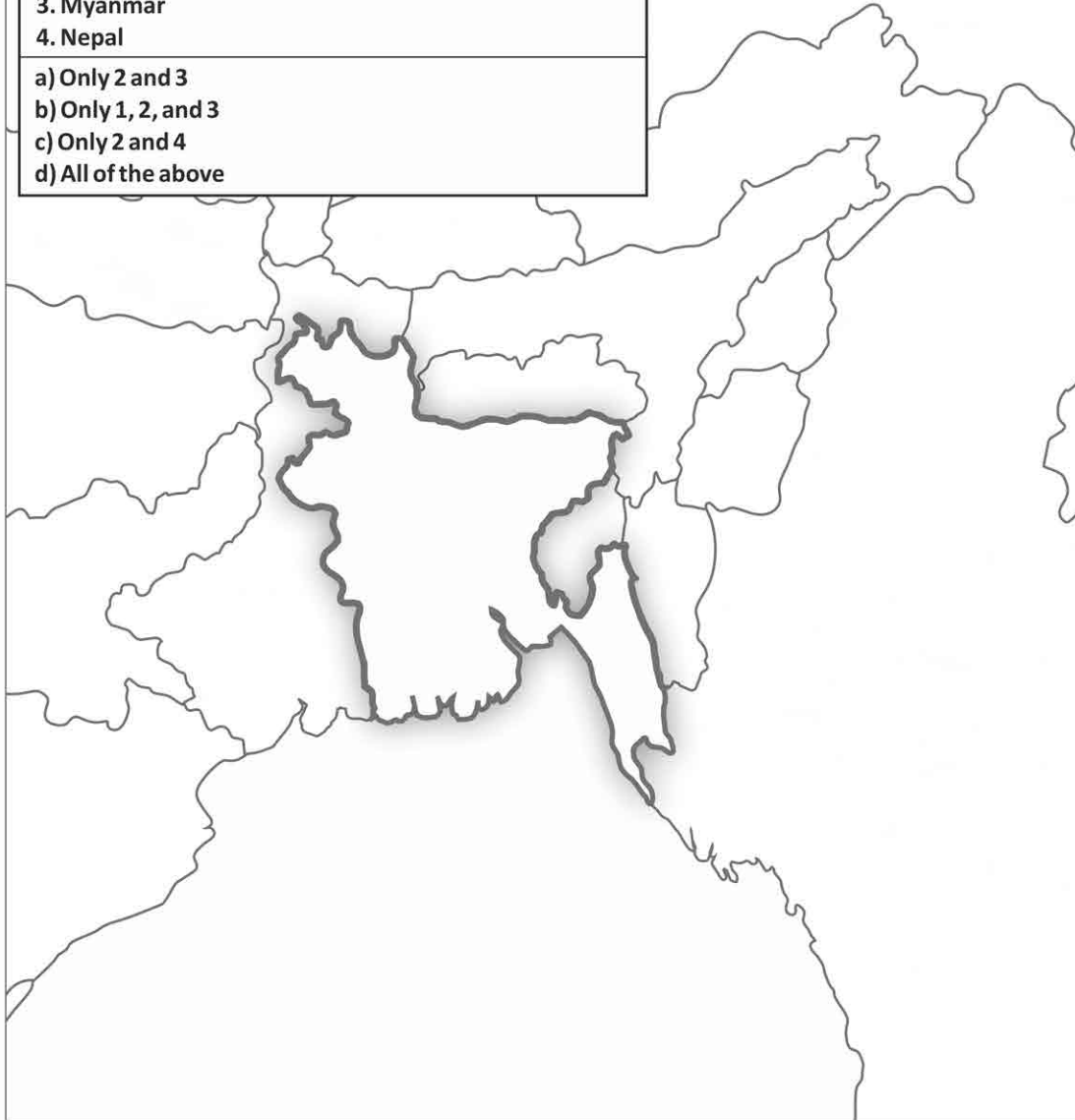
A-42 Mongla Port is located in which one of the following countries?

- a) Bangladesh
- b) Nepal
- c) Myanmar
- d) Bhutan

A-43 Which of the following countries shares a border with Bangladesh?

- 1. Bhutan
- 2. India
- 3. Myanmar
- 4. Nepal

- a) Only 2 and 3
- b) Only 1, 2, and 3
- c) Only 2 and 4
- d) All of the above





**B-1 Think about the following countries:**

1. Somalia
2. Paraguay
3. Uganda
4. Colombia
5. Indonesia

**Equator passes through which of above countries-**

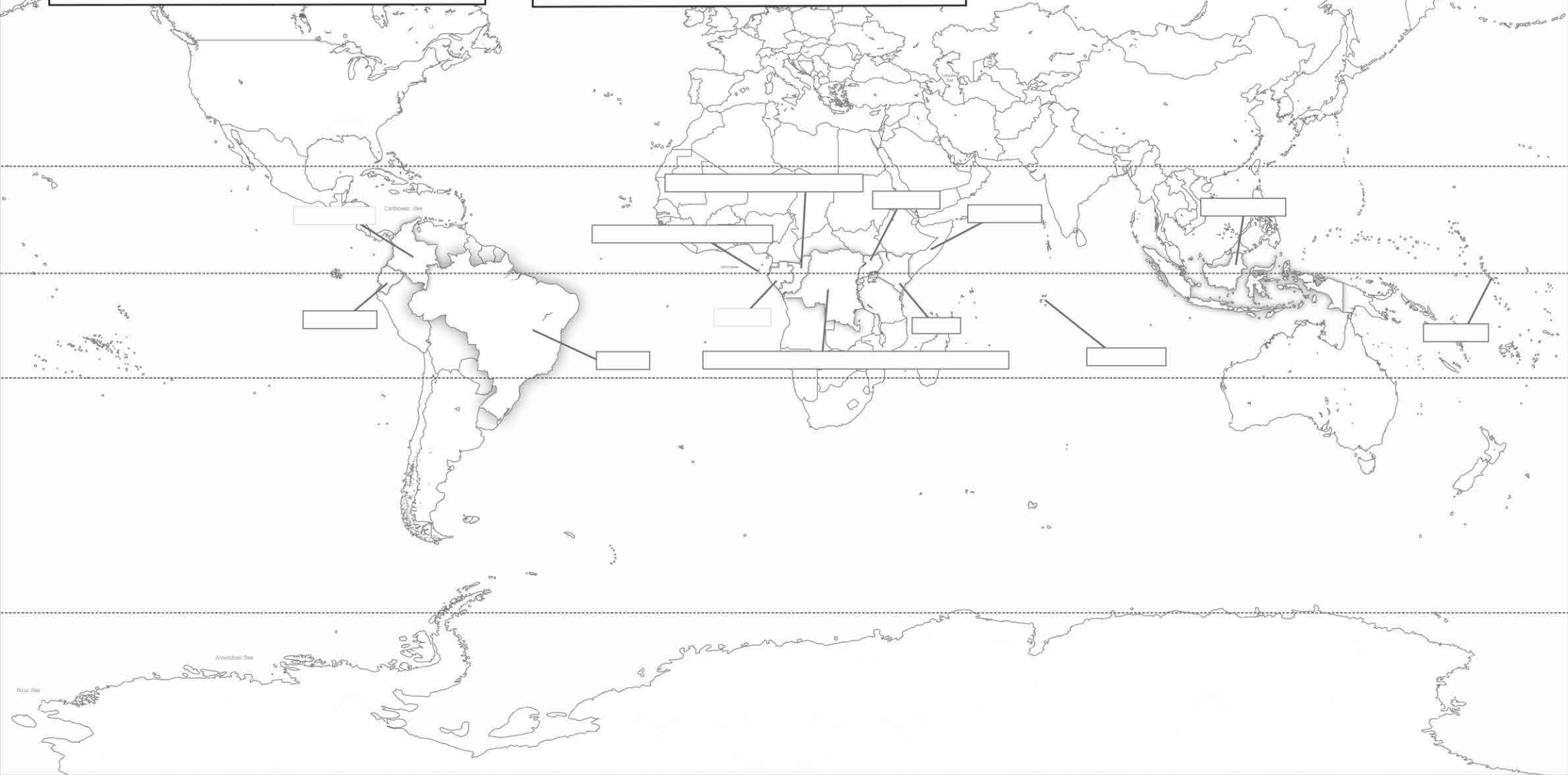
- a) 1, 2, & 3 only
- b) 1, 2, 4, & 5 only
- c) 1, 3, 4 & 5 only
- d) All of the above

**B-2 Which of the following island nations are cut by line of Equator?**

1. Indonesia
2. Somalia
3. Kiribati
4. Seychelles

**Select the correct answer from the codes given below:**

- a) 1 & 4 only
- b) 2 & 3 only
- c) 1, 2 & 3 only
- d) 1 & 3 only



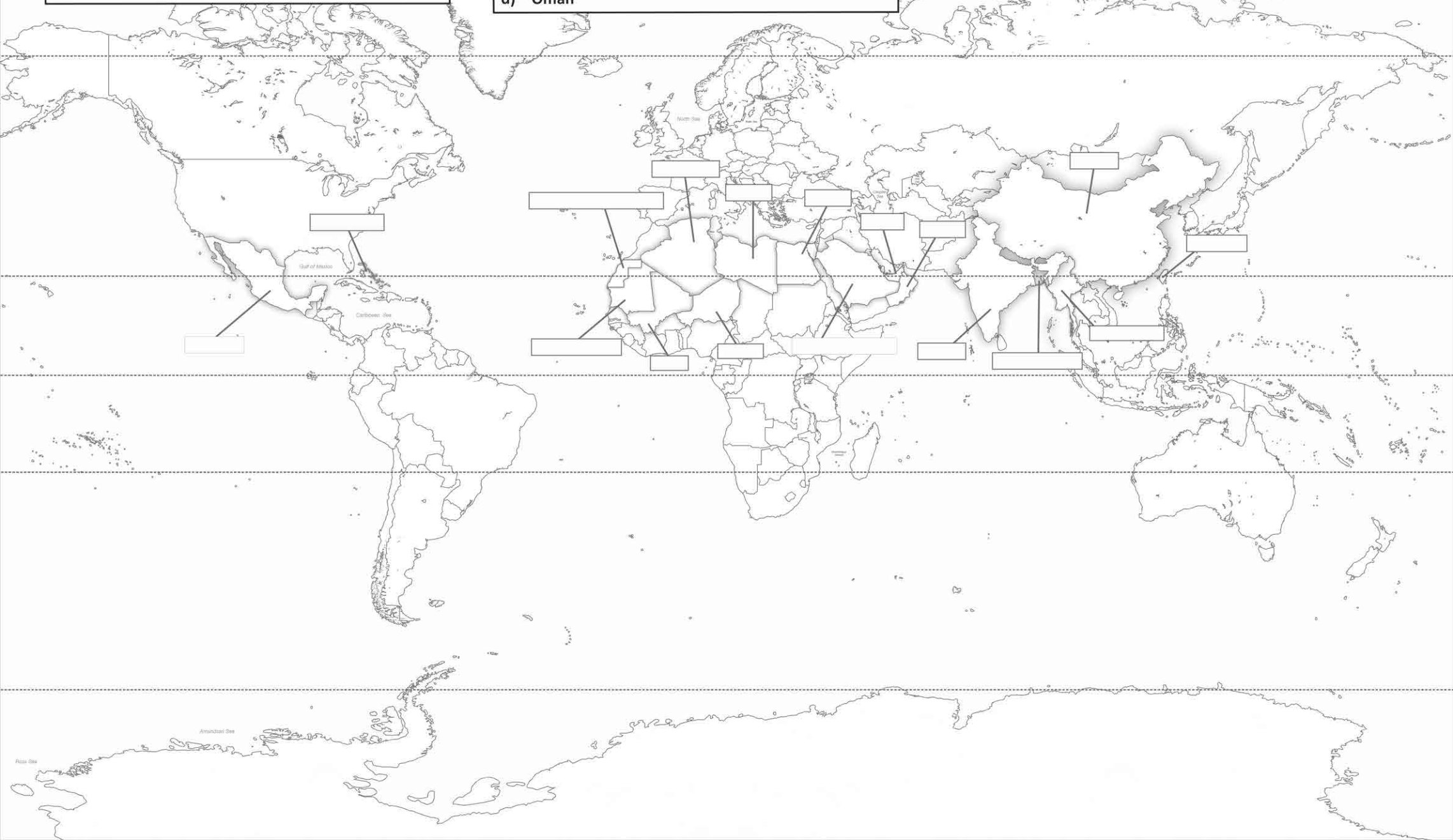


**B-3 The Tropic of Cancer does not pass through-**

- a) Myanmar
- b) India
- c) Iran
- d) Egypt

**B-4 The Tropic of Cancer runs through the Arabian Peninsula. Which of these countries is NOT on it?**

- a) Saudi Arabia
- b) Yemen
- c) United Arab Emirates
- d) Oman





**B-5 Consider the following statements:**

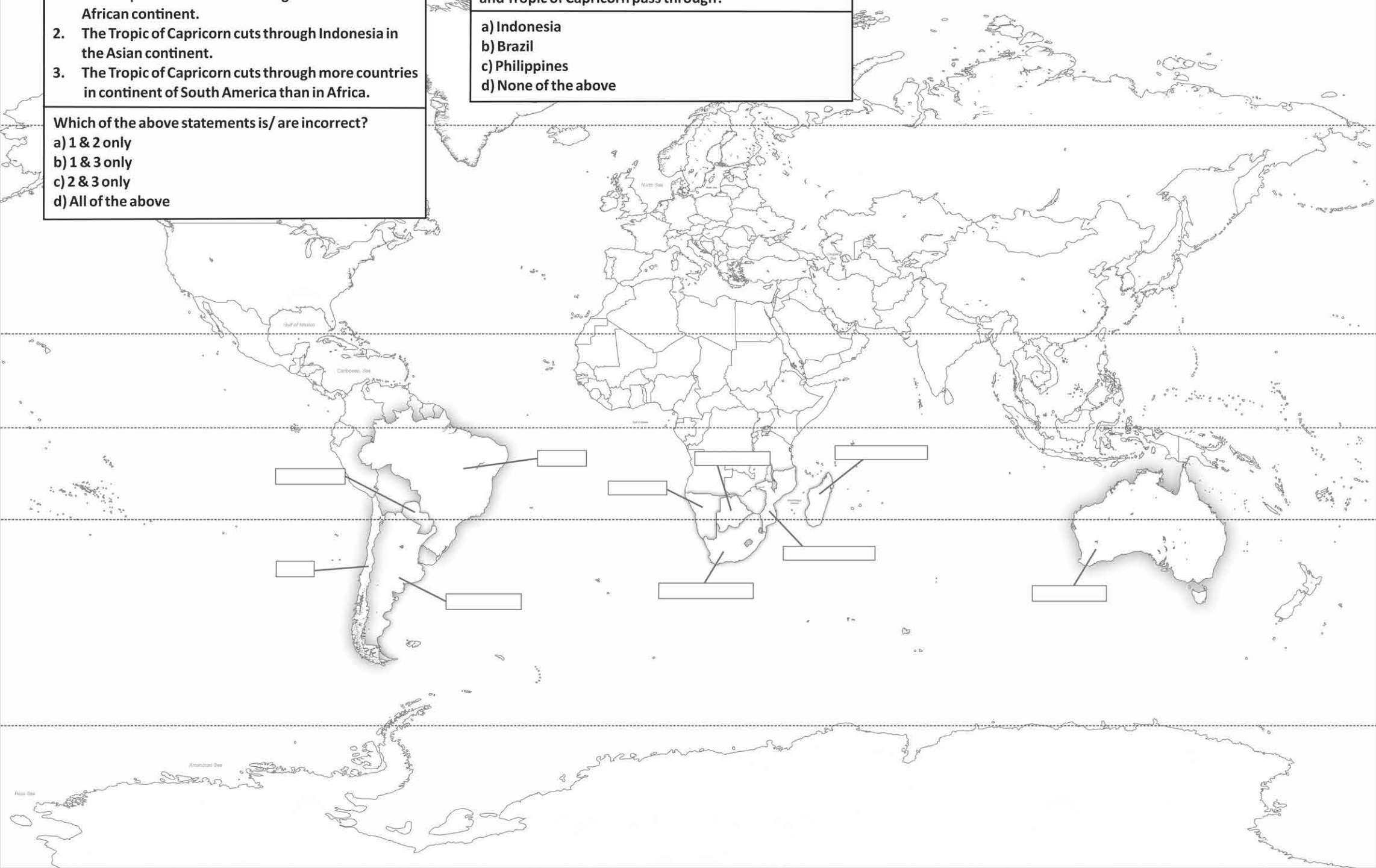
1. The Tropic of Cancer cuts through most countries in African continent.
2. The Tropic of Capricorn cuts through Indonesia in the Asian continent.
3. The Tropic of Capricorn cuts through more countries in continent of South America than in Africa.

**Which of the above statements is/ are incorrect?**

- a) 1 & 2 only  
b) 1 & 3 only  
c) 2 & 3 only  
d) All of the above

**B-6** Which of the following countries does both Equator and Tropic of Capricorn pass through?

- a) Indonesia  
b) Brazil  
c) Philippines  
d) None of the above





**B-7 The Prime Meridian passes through. –**

1. Algeria
2. France
3. Nigeria
4. Portugal

**Select the correct answer using the code given below.**

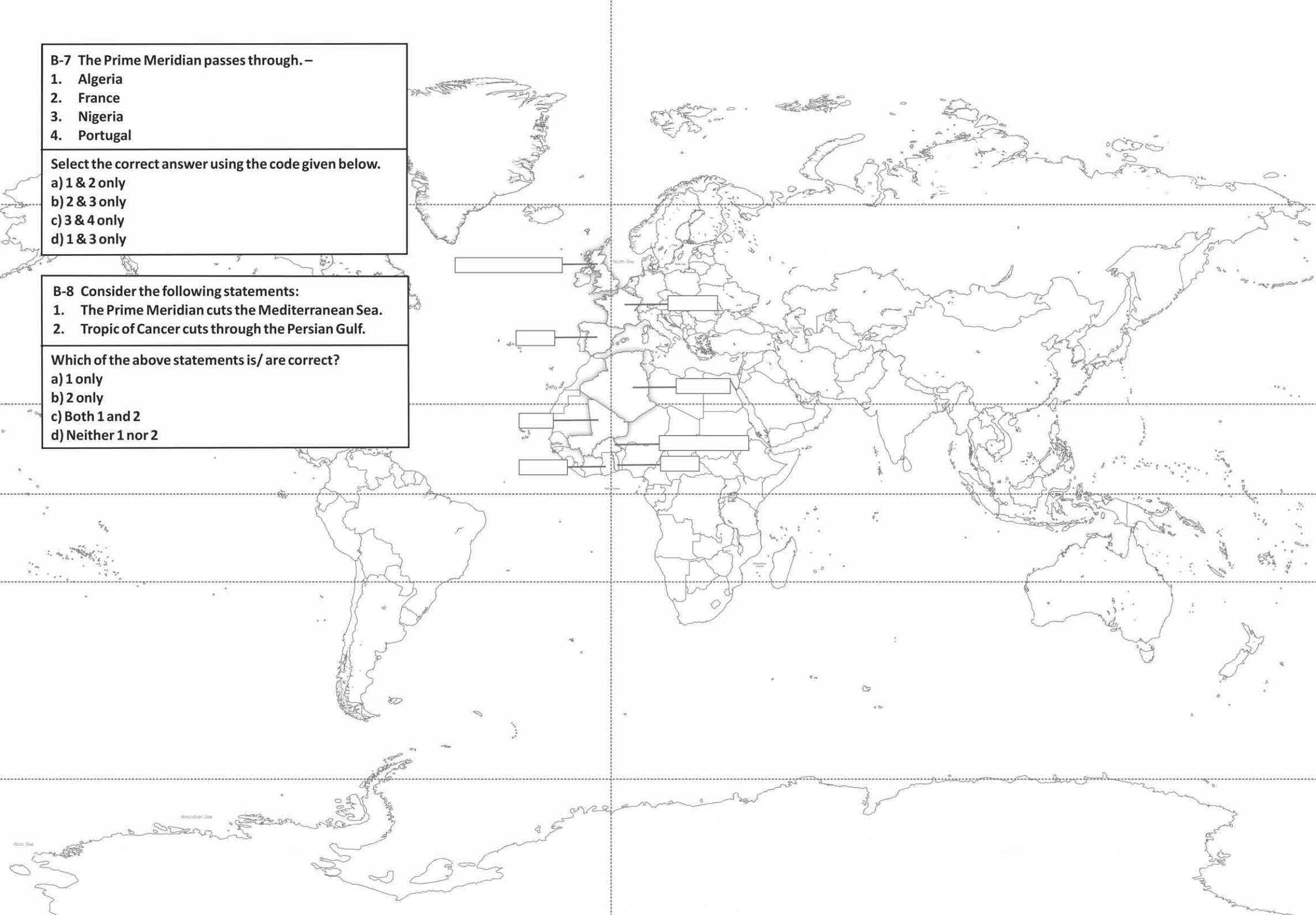
- a) 1 & 2 only
- b) 2 & 3 only
- c) 3 & 4 only
- d) 1 & 3 only

**B-8 Consider the following statements:**

1. The Prime Meridian cuts the Mediterranean Sea.
2. Tropic of Cancer cuts through the Persian Gulf.

**Which of the above statements is/ are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2





**B-9 Which of the following countries do not penetrate the Arctic Circle?**

1. USA
2. Norway
3. United Kingdom
4. Estonia

**Select the correct answer from the codes given below:**

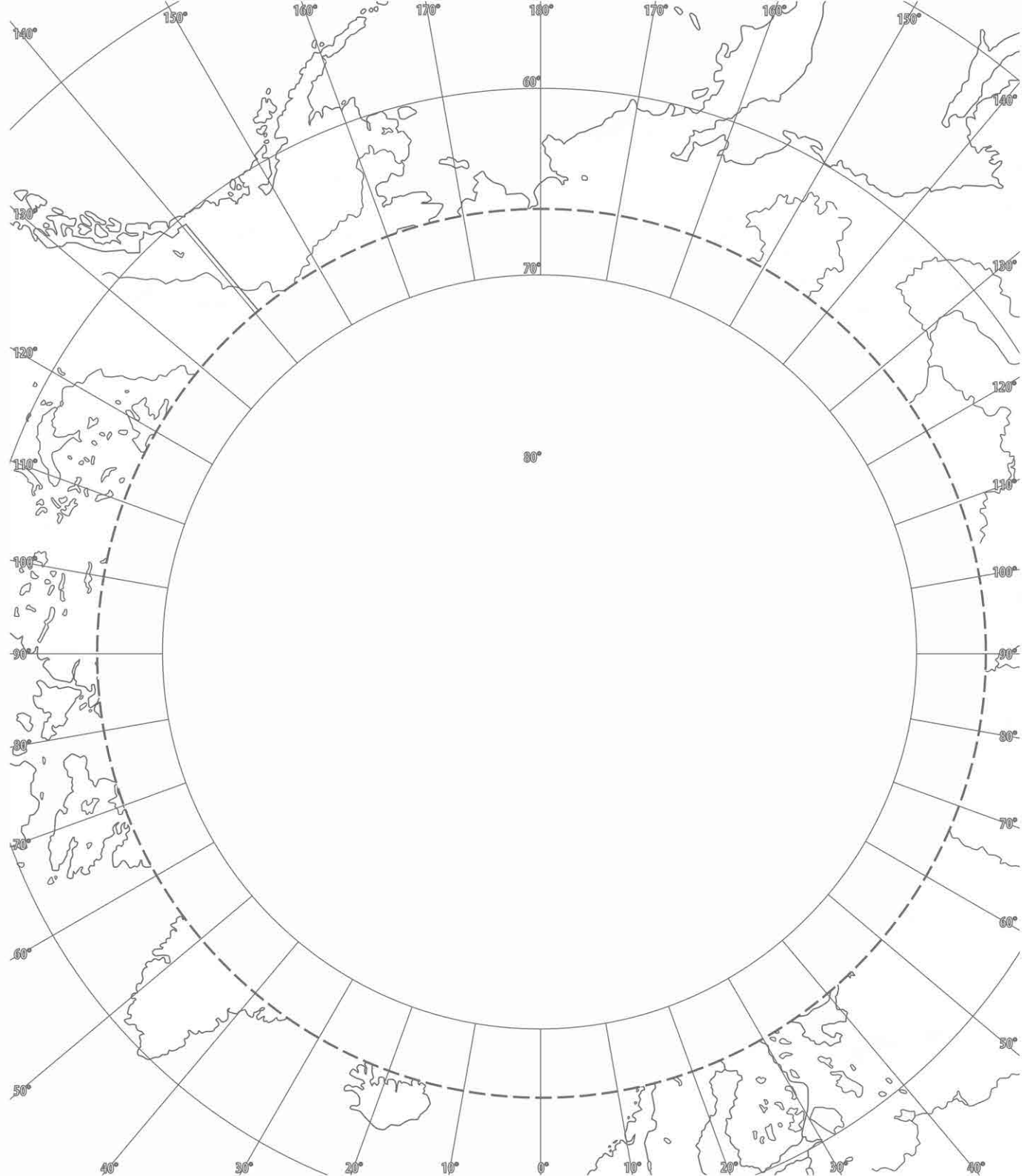
- a) 1 & 2 only
- b) 3 & 4 only
- c) 1 & 3 only
- d) 1 & 4 only

**B-10 After crossing Norway, Sweden, and Finland east across the Arctic Circle, you reach another country by land. Unlike crossing from North America to Europe, there is no ocean in between. Which country will you find next along the Arctic Circle?**

- a) Estonia
- b) Russia
- c) Lithuania
- d) Latvia

**B-11 To the east of northern Canada is Greenland. The Arctic Circle goes through Greenland. Is more than half of Greenland north of the Arctic Circle?**

- a) Yes
- b) No



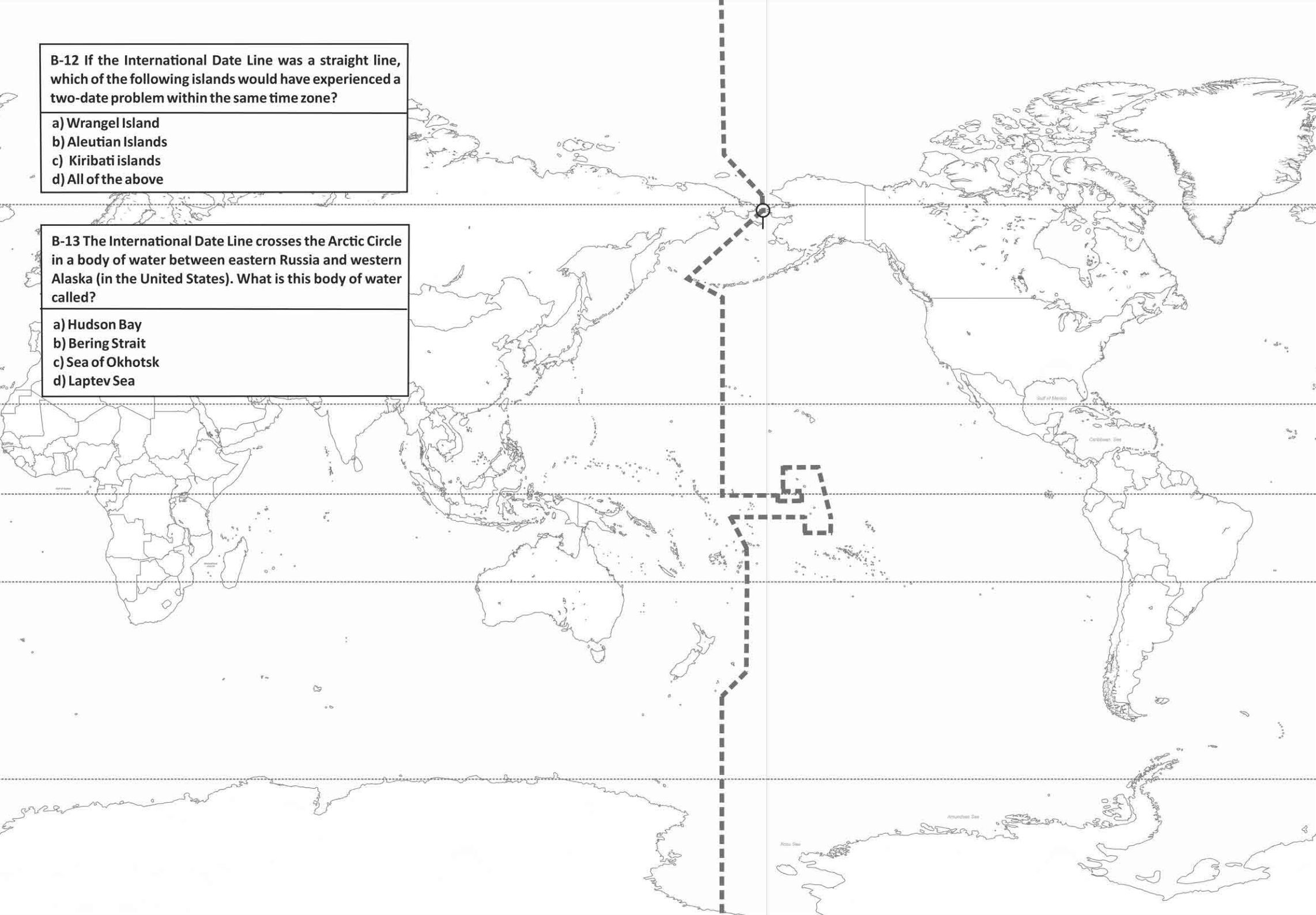


**B-12 If the International Date Line was a straight line, which of the following islands would have experienced a two-date problem within the same time zone?**

- a) Wrangel Island
- b) Aleutian Islands
- c) Kiribati islands
- d) All of the above

**B-13 The International Date Line crosses the Arctic Circle in a body of water between eastern Russia and western Alaska (in the United States). What is this body of water called?**

- a) Hudson Bay
- b) Bering Strait
- c) Sea of Okhotsk
- d) Laptev Sea







**B-14 Which one of the following is the correct sequence of the given Continents in the decreasing order of their percentage of Earth's land?**

- a) North America - South America - Africa - Europe**
- b) North America - Africa - South America - Europe**
- c) Africa - North America - South America - Europe**
- d) North America - Africa - Europe - South America**





**B-15 Look at the following Countries:**

- 1 Andorra
- 2 Ukraine
- 3 Kosovo
- 4 Bulgaria
- 5 Belarus

**Which of the above are landlocked countries?**

- a) 1, 2 & 3 only
- b) 1, 3 & 5 only
- c) 1, 3, 4 & 5 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 & 4 only





**B-16 Look at the following Countries:**

- 1 Ethiopia**
- 2 Democratic Republic of the Congo**
- 3 Central African Republic**
- 4 Malawi**
- 5 Zambia**

**Which of the above are landlocked countries?**

- a) 1, 2 & 3 only**
- b) 1, 2 & 4 only**
- c) 1, 3, 4 & 5 only**
- d) 1, 2, 3 & 4 only**

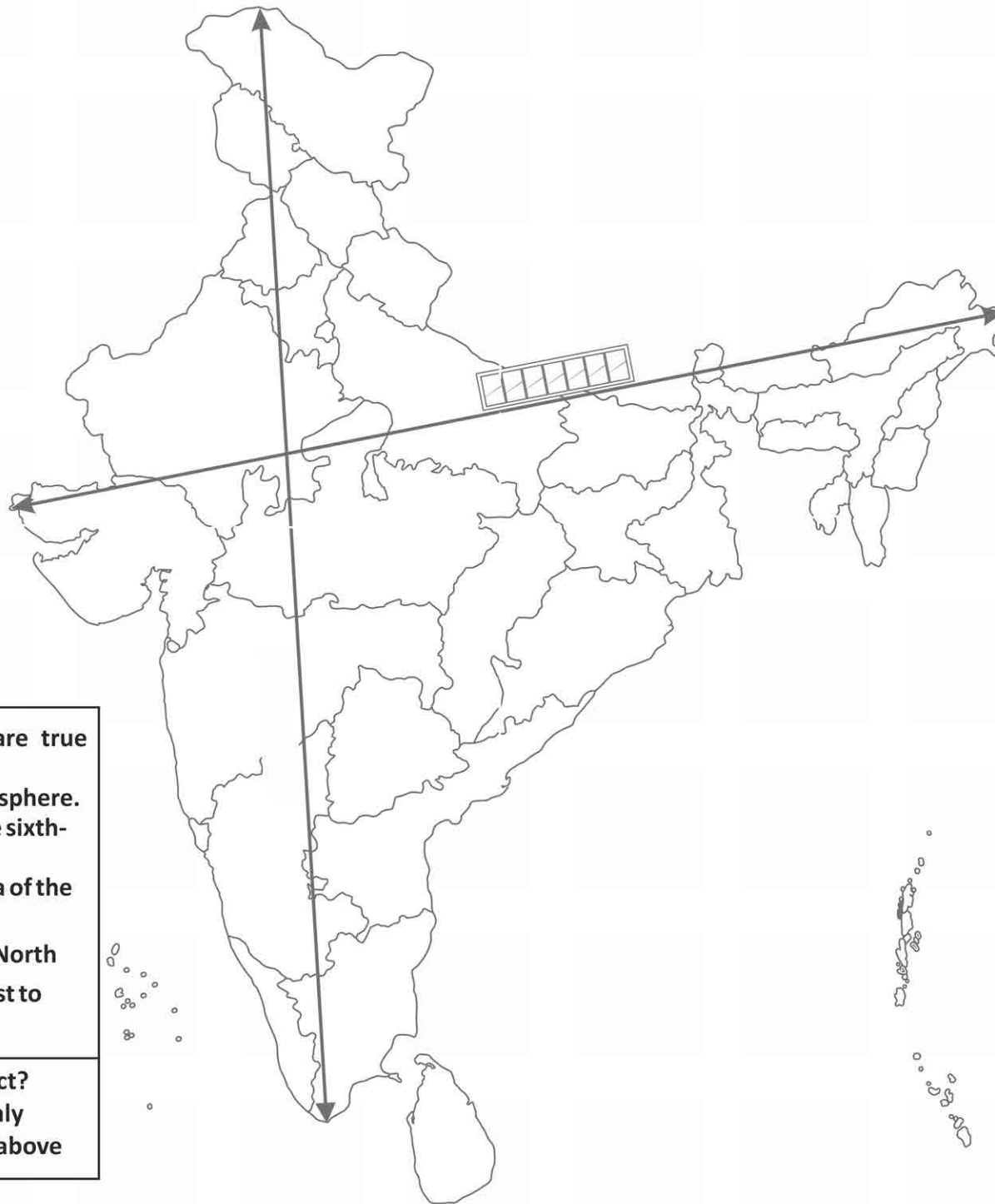




B-17 Argentina borders the two landlocked countries in South America. What are they?

- a) Bolivia and Paraguay
- b) Uruguay and Ecuador
- c) Paraguay and Uruguay
- d) Paraguay and Peru





**B-18 Which of the following statements are true about India?**

1. India lies in the Northern and Eastern hemisphere.
2. It is the second-most populous country, the sixth-largest country by land area.
3. It covers 2.4 % of the total geographical area of the world.
4. The mainland stretches from Latitude  $8^{\circ} 4'$  North to  $37^{\circ} 6'$  North and from Longitude  $68^{\circ} 7'$  East to  $97^{\circ} 25'$  East.

**Which of the above statement(s) is/ are correct?**

- |                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| a) 1 & 3 only    | b) 1, 2 & 4 only    |
| c) 1, 3 & 4 only | d) All of the above |





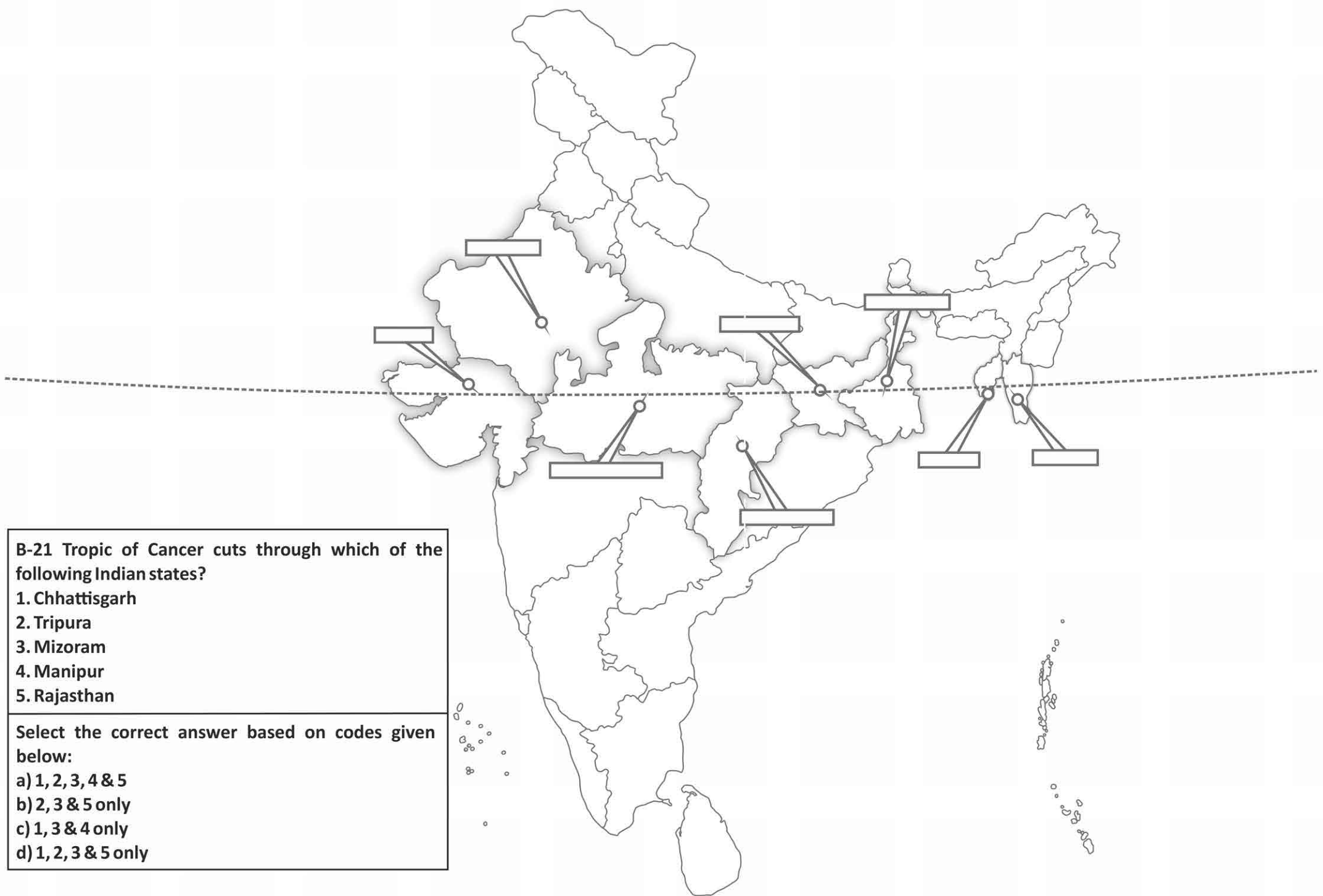
**B-19 The southern most point of India is-**

- a) Kanyakumari
- b) Rameswaram
- c) Indira Point
- d) Point Calimere

**B-20 Which one of the following pair of states of India indicates the easternmost and westernmost state?**

- a) Assam and Rajasthan
- b) Arunachal Pradesh and Rajasthan
- c) Assam and Gujarat
- d) Arunachal Pradesh and Gujarat





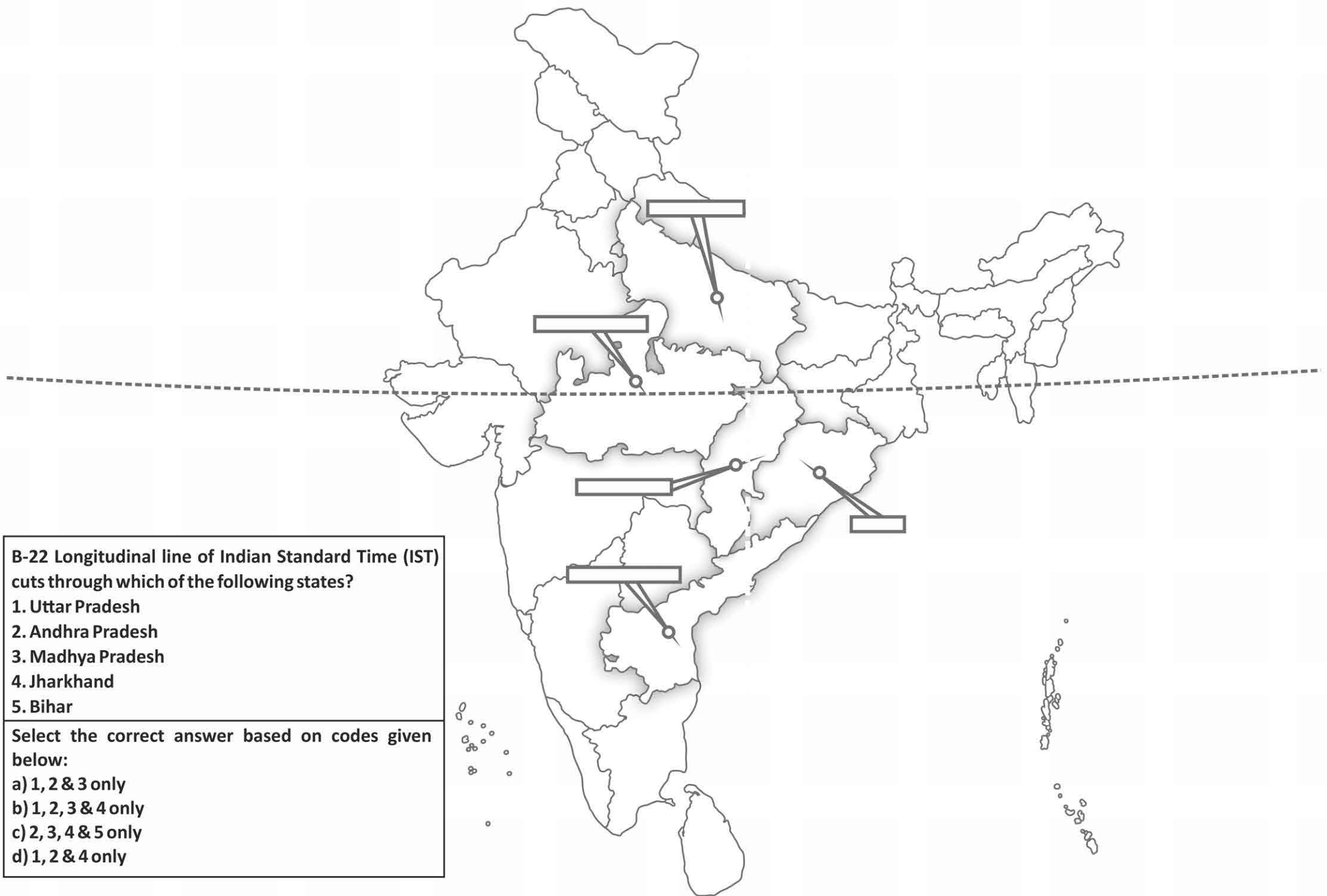
**B-21 Tropic of Cancer cuts through which of the following Indian states?**

- 1. Chhattisgarh**
- 2. Tripura**
- 3. Mizoram**
- 4. Manipur**
- 5. Rajasthan**

**Select the correct answer based on codes given below:**

- a) 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5**
- b) 2, 3 & 5 only**
- c) 1, 3 & 4 only**
- d) 1, 2, 3 & 5 only**





**B-22 Longitudinal line of Indian Standard Time (IST) cuts through which of the following states?**

1. Uttar Pradesh
2. Andhra Pradesh
3. Madhya Pradesh
4. Jharkhand
5. Bihar

**Select the correct answer based on codes given below:**

- a) 1, 2 & 3 only
- b) 1, 2, 3 & 4 only
- c) 2, 3, 4 & 5 only
- d) 1, 2 & 4 only



**B-24 How many islands comprise the Lakshadweep islands?**

- a) 36
- b) 46
- c) 56
- d) 66

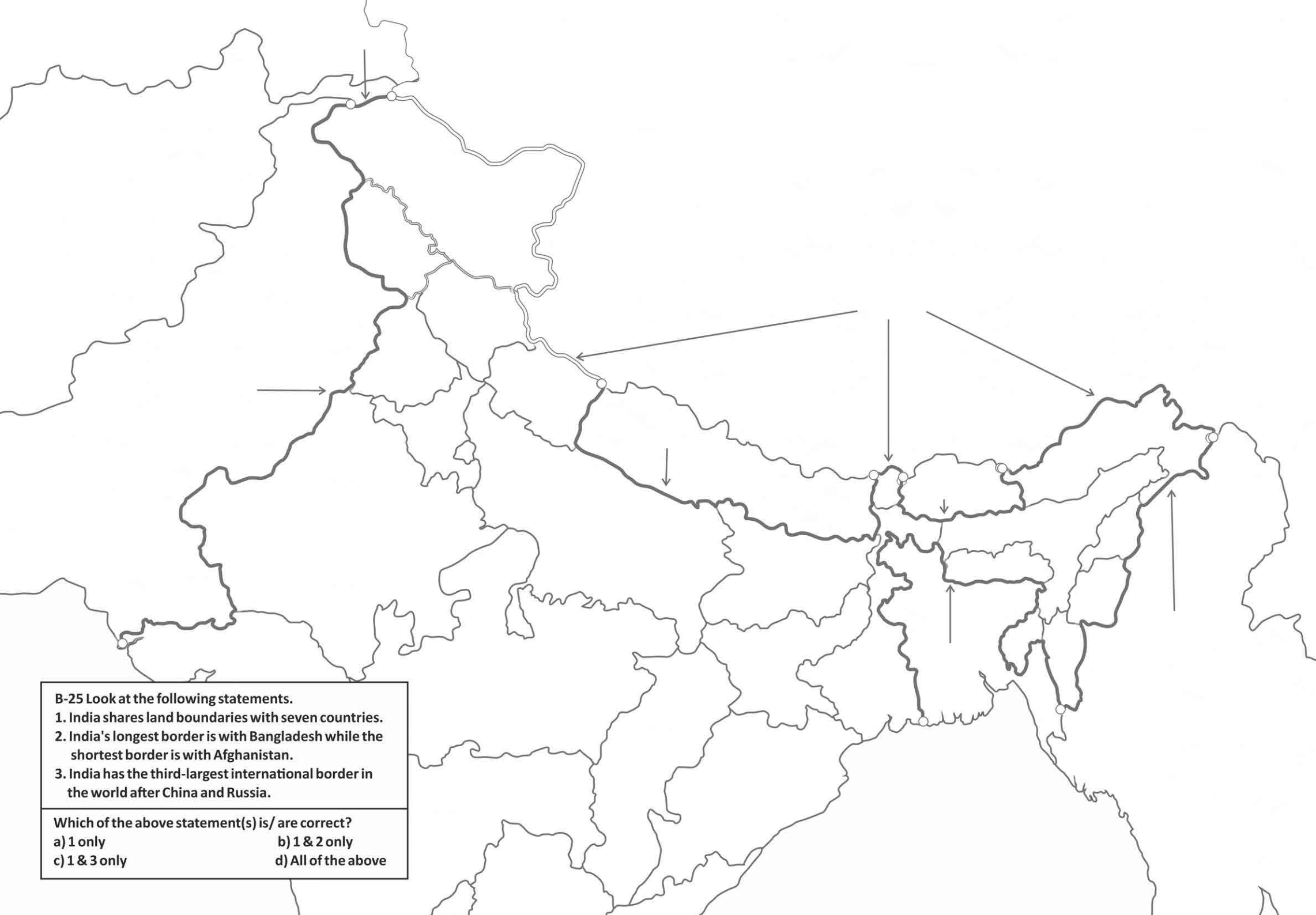
**B-23 Arrange the following islands/ channels north to south:**

1. Barren Island
2. Shaheed Dweep
3. Swaraj Dweep
4. Coco Channel
5. Great Channel

**Select the correct answer based on codes given below:**

- a) 1-3-4-2-5
- b) 4-3-1-2-5
- c) 4-3-2-5-1
- d) 4-1-3-2-5





**B-25** Look at the following statements.

1. India shares land boundaries with seven countries.
2. India's longest border is with Bangladesh while the shortest border is with Afghanistan.
3. India has the third-largest international border in the world after China and Russia.

Which of the above statement(s) is/ are correct?

- |               |                     |
|---------------|---------------------|
| a) 1 only     | b) 1 & 2 only       |
| c) 1 & 3 only | d) All of the above |



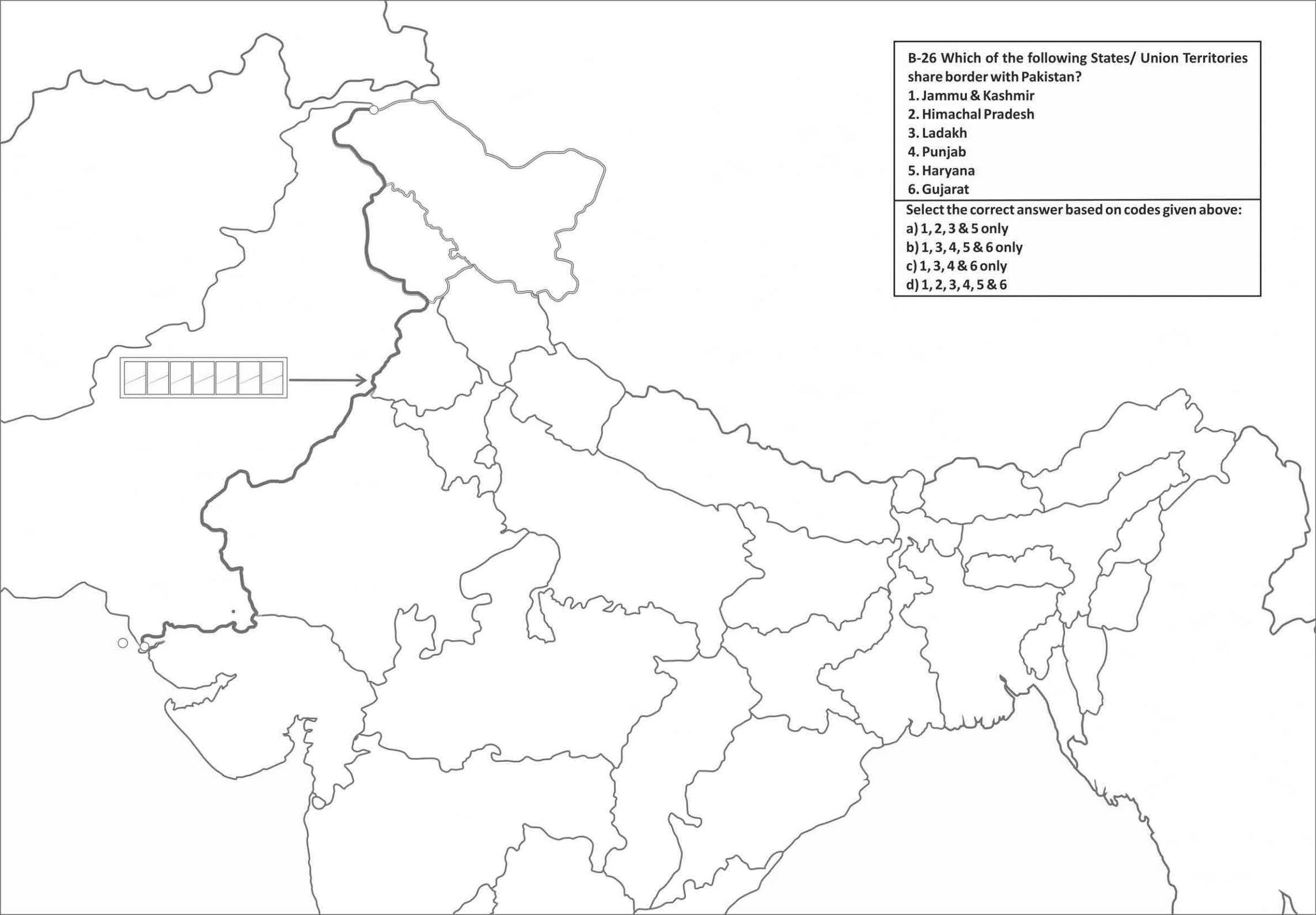
**B-26 Which of the following States/ Union Territories share border with Pakistan?**

1. Jammu & Kashmir
2. Himachal Pradesh
3. Ladakh
4. Punjab
5. Haryana
6. Gujarat

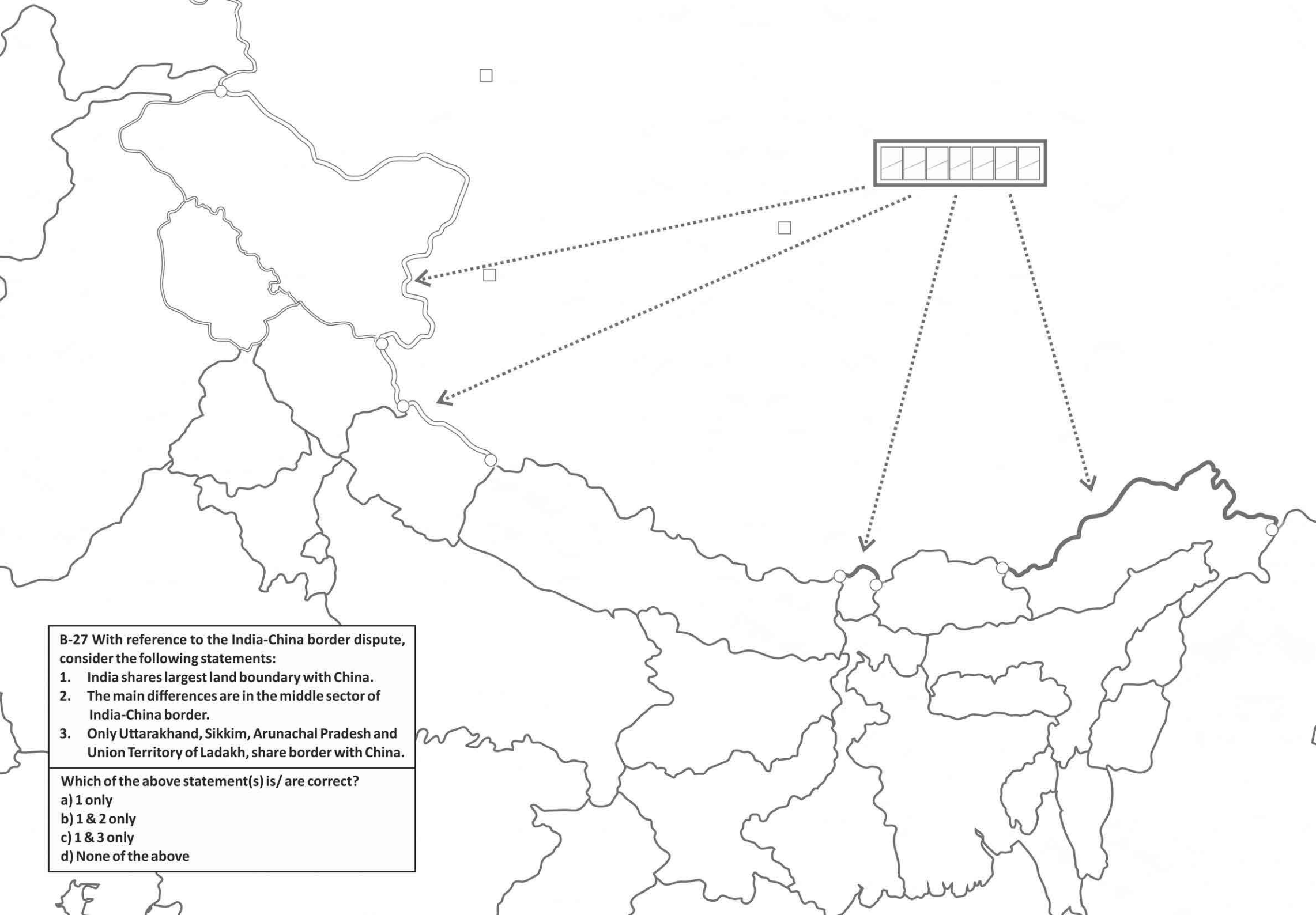
**Select the correct answer based on codes given above:**

- a) 1, 2, 3 & 5 only
- b) 1, 3, 4, 5 & 6 only
- c) 1, 3, 4 & 6 only
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6

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**B-27** With reference to the India-China border dispute, consider the following statements:

1. India shares largest land boundary with China.
2. The main differences are in the middle sector of India-China border.
3. Only Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Union Territory of Ladakh, share border with China.

Which of the above statement(s) is/ are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 & 2 only
- c) 1 & 3 only
- d) None of the above



B-28 Myanmar borders which of the following states of India?

1. Assam
2. Arunachal Pradesh
3. Manipur
4. Tripura
5. Mizoram
6. Nagaland

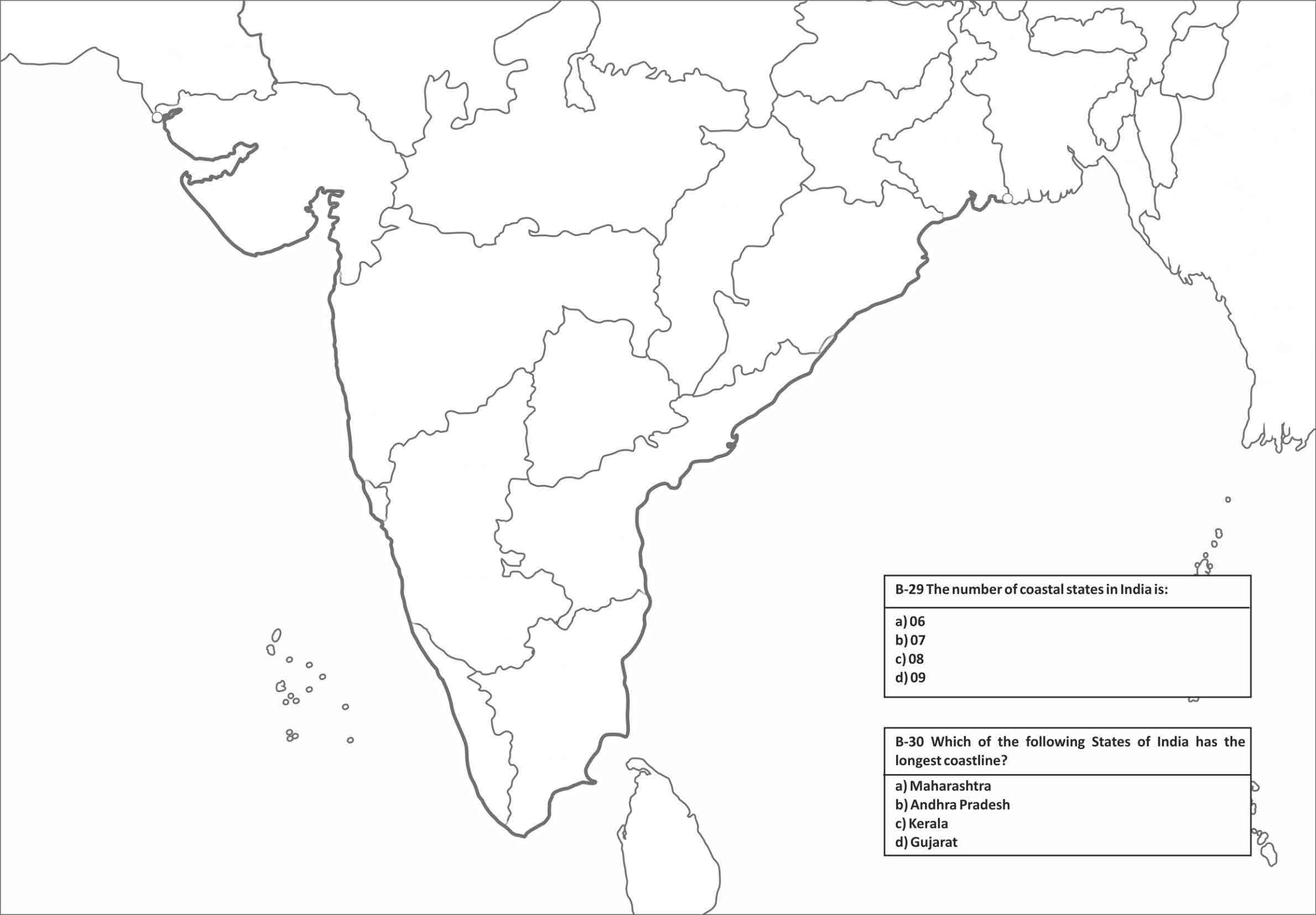
Select the correct answer based on codes given below:

- a) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6
- b) 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 only
- c) 3, 4 & 6 only
- d) 2, 3, 5 & 6 only

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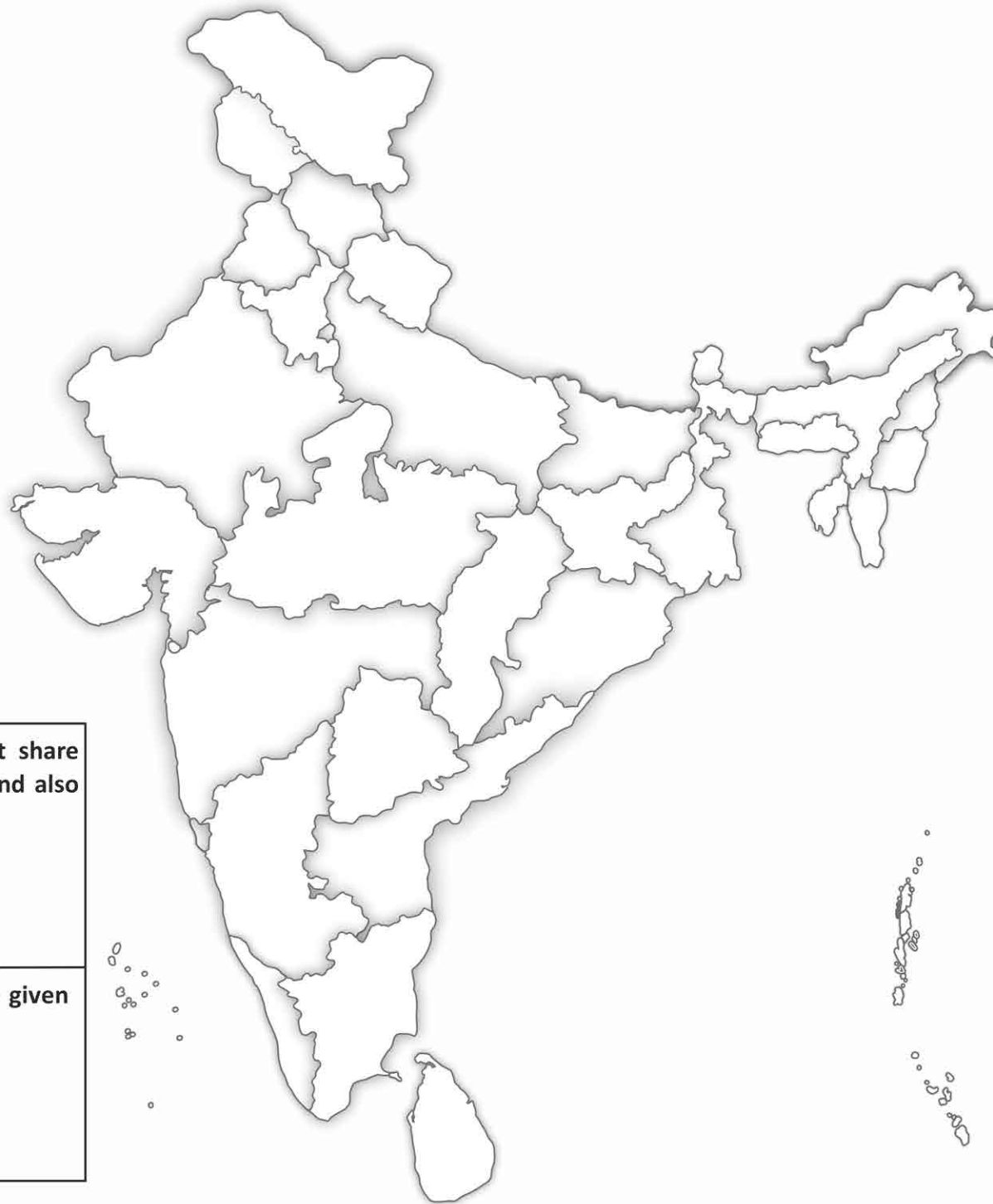




<b>B-29 The number of coastal states in India is:</b>
a) 06 b) 07 c) 08 d) 09

<b>B-30 Which of the following States of India has the longest coastline?</b>
a) Maharashtra b) Andhra Pradesh c) Kerala d) Gujarat





**B-31 Which of the following states do not share borders with any other sovereign country and also does not have coastline?**

- 1) Telangana
- 2) Himachal Pradesh
- 3) Jharkhand
- 4) Haryana

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1, 2 & 4 only
- b) 1 & 4 only
- c) 2, 3 & 4 only
- d) 1, 3 & 4 only



**B-32 Consider the following statements:**

- 1. Assam shares border with Bhutan and Bangladesh.**
- 2. West Bengal shares border with Bhutan and Nepal.**
- 3. Mizoram shares border with Bangladesh and Myanmar.**

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) 1 & 2 only**
- b) 2 & 3 only**
- c) 1 & 3 only**
- d) All of the above**

